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CONTENTS.

Births, Marriage and Deaths.
Loading Articles:
Proposed Tax on Portland Cement Material.
America's Bid for China's Trade.
The Character of Chinese Emigrants.
The Sanitary Board in Session.
The Manchurian Loan Fiasco.
Japanese Imitation of Trade Marks.
Telegrams:
British Fleet North.
Judge Wilfley Again.
Meetings:
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.
Sanitary Board.
The Astor House Hotel Co., Ltd.
British North Borneo Co.
Kulungau Municipal Council.
Legal Intelligence:
A Question of Compensation.
The Des Vaux Road Murder.
Kowloon Land Resumption.
The Yarn Crisis.
Police:
Alleged Murder at Sam-shui-pa.
Policeman Attempts Suicide.
Impudent Housebreaking.
Alleged Assault on a Launch.
Long-lost One Recovered.
A Notorious Chum.
Sergeant Interpreter Convicted.
Stowaway Aboard a Collier.
A Godown Robbed.
Disturbance in a Hotel.
Correspondence:
The Navy League.
Miscellaneous Articles and Reports:
The East Coast Ports of China.
The Chinese Language.
The Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.
New Victoria Bridge.
Hongkong Water Polo Shield Competition.
Shammut and Tremont.
The Naval Yard Fire.
V. R. C. Sports.
China Railway Contracts.
Property Sale.
Mails for the Far East.
Ex-Viceroy Shum.
The Royal Hongkong Golf Club.
North China Force.
The Anti-Opium Movement.
Governments of Colonies.
Chinese Teacher Killed.
Chinese Coolie Emigration.
A Manchurian Railway Loan.
The Anti-Opium Movement.
Shell Transport and Trading Company.
China and Indian Opium.
Volunteer Corps Orders.
Typhoon Warning.
Canton Day by Day.
Is the Anti-Opium Movement a Success?
Wachow Notes.
The Hongkong Tragedy.
The Shanghai Police Inquiry Committee.
Interpret Polo.
A Tricky Prisoner.
The Manchurian Viceroy.
The Late Mr. J. Tulloch.
Mutiny of Troops in Kinn.
Accident on the Yangtze.
Shanghai Advertising.
Chinese Cigarette Factories.
Racial Jealousies.
The Comet.
The Russo-Japanese Convention.
The Oil Trade in Japan.
The Japanese Spinning Industry.
A Japanese Captain of Finance.
Cholera on the Yamashiro-maru.
The Tokyo Exhibition of 1912.
The Macleod-Osorio Prosecution.
Alleged High-handed Action.
Commercial:
Rubbish Crushing.
Yarn Market.
Exchange.
Local and General.

foot, and that regulations which were calculated seriously to affect the operation of foreign companies were in contemplation. It was even mooted that a proposal to prohibit the exportation of the particular limestone required for the manufacture of cement was under consideration by the Chinese authorities, but on the departure from Canton of Viceroy Shum, who was known to be the protagonist in the scheme to secure the success of the Government institution at the expense of any foreign concern, it was allowed temporarily to disappear into the background. The idea only remained dormant, however, for according to information which we have received from our correspondent at Canton a proclamation has been issued dealing with the question of the exportation of the limestone which is absolutely necessary for the manufacture of Portland cement. The proclamation, which will come into effect on an early date, is less drastic in its terms than the original scheme had in view, but it none the less aims at the ultimate extinction of a trade which is of the utmost importance to Hongkong. There can be no doubt that the proclamation is directed against the Green Island Cement Company, which is entirely dependent for its supply of the raw material upon the deposits which exist in the district near Canton. No other cement factories operated outside Canton seek to draw supplies from this quarter, and consequently none is likely to be affected by any regulation which may be promulgated by the Chinese Provincial Government except the Green Island Cement Company. It appears that the Likin Bureau, in co-operation with the Canton Government Cement Factory, have issued a proclamation to the effect that as the limestone quarried in the district of Ying Tak is suitable for the manufacture of cement, and as the product is exported to foreign ports in large quantities the authorities have decided to levy a likin tax of 1.2 candareen per picul on all the material exported. The Magistrate at Ying Tak has received instructions—Viceroy's instructions—to establish a likin station and inaugurate the collection of the new tax at the earliest possible date. Such in brief would appear to be the terms of the proclamation. When it is stated that the special limestone required for the manufacture of Portland cement occurs in extremely few places and that investigations having as their purpose the discovery of deposits within the area of the Colony have entirely failed to locate the existence of any similar deposits, the importance and character of the measure instituted by the Chinese authorities will be fully appreciated. It is practically an attempt to interfere with the huge industry which has been built up through the energy and perseverance of Hongkong's commercial community, and brought to success by the skill and enterprise of the general managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. What the precise effect the protectionist manoeuvre of the Canton Government may have on the manufacture of Portland cement at Hok On is too early to say, and it would be rash to speculate, but that it means much to an industry which is already experiencing the difficulties resulting from the vagaries of silver exchange will be self-evident. The tax of something like one penny per picul may seem trifling, but when it is stated that thousands of tons are annually imported into Hongkong by the Green Island Cement Company, and that these thousands come from the neighbouring district of Canton, it will be apparent that even a candareen extra cost will amount to a very considerable sum at the end of a twelve-month. In order to show the phenomenal development which has taken place in the Portland cement business, particularly in America where most buildings are now being constructed of reinforced cement, we quote some figures and statements which appeared recently in the *Manufacturers' Record of Baltimore* covering Portland cement production running back to the year 1880. Space does not permit us to reproduce the entire table, but we give the five-year intervals down to 1895, and then the figures for each year since the phenomenal growth began:

	barrels
1880	42,000
1885	150,000
1890	335,501
1895	990,324
1897	2,667,755
1898	3,067,274
1899	5,652,266
1900	8,482,020
1901	12,711,225
1902	17,340,644
1903	22,342,973
1904	25,605,881
1905	35,246,812
1906	45,610,822

Commenting on this development, the paper quoted observed that so great has been the percentage of increase, even during the last few years, that it is difficult to undertake to forecast anything as to the vast productions of cement during the next five or ten years. Between 1895 and 1906 there was a growth from less than 1,000,000 barrels to over 45,000,000 barrels, and in 1906 there was a gain over 1905 of 10,400,000 barrels, which is a greater gain than has ever been made in any one year in America up to 1901. No other large industry, we believe, has ever made such a marvellous record of advance as that of cement, and for it there seems to be practically no limit. But the manufacturer must be in a position to obtain the raw material at a reasonable rate, and in sufficient quantities to meet requirements, before he can hope to conduct his business with profit and success.

AMERICA'S BID FOR CHINA'S TRADE.

(19th August.)

As the result of one of those spasms of commercial enterprise which periodically overtake the business circles of Great Britain, and are not infrequently benignly blessed by the Government in power at the time, it was decided that the importance of China as a market for British manufactures should no longer be neglected or left to be exploited by the Teuton and the Frank. The consuls discovered that their belated reports, culled from the voluminous statements of the Imperial Maritime Customs and issued months afterwards, might incorporate hints as to the trade openings which might be taken advantage of by energetic firms desirous of entering a new and profitable sphere. An attempt in that direction was made, but it can scarcely be alleged that these hints were of a character to afford much guidance to the average manufacturer in the United Kingdom, and undoubtedly they were, and still are, far behind the elaborate, candid and thoughtful reports of the Customs Statistical Department. (When the Prince of Wales delivered his memorable speech at the Guildhall, in the course of which he made use of the expression, "Wake up, England," the Foreign Office apparently arrived at the tardy conclusion that it would not be inconsistent with its policy to appoint a Commercial Attaché to China; and one of the most capable men in the British consular service was appointed to the office. We are well aware that Sir Alexander Hosie has been at infinite pains to acquaint himself with the trade conditions of China generally, but little or nothing which could be esteemed of value to the merchant seeking for information regarding the requirements of the Middle Kingdom has so far emerged from the Circumlocution Office, although we may take it for granted that the visit of the Commercial Attaché to South China was not undertaken to pass an idle holiday. Contrasted with the methods adopted by Japan and America to corral the trade of the Orient, and of China in particular, the system employed by the British Government to encourage British exporters to expand their connection with the Far East seems weak, haphazard and almost futile. It is unnecessary to refer again to the efforts which Japan has made to acquire the commercial suzerainty of Eastern China, efforts that have produced results even beyond the expectations of a naturally sanguine and enterprising people. We would only refer to the evidence which is now presented of America's intention to take higher rank than she does at present as a commercial entity in China. In order to facilitate and expedite the settlement of questions which may arise between the Governments of the United States and China, it has been decided to establish at Washington a special Bureau which will deal exclusively with Far Eastern issues and thereby obviate such unfortunate complications as those which resulted in the boycott of American goods sent to China last year. By the constitution of the Bureau it might appear at first sight as if it were merely an outgrowth of the Foreign Secretary, but a little consideration will show that it is much more than an ornamental department created for the benefit of needy parsons of the Government or to enhance the importance of the Chinese in their own estimation. While its primary functions will be the conduct of diplomatic and consular affairs and the negotiation of treaties, it will also hold in the forefront the advancement of American trade interests, and smooth the way to that development of reciprocal relationship which becomes more manifest with each succeeding consular and Customs statement. That this view correctly expresses the real object of the new Department may be accepted from the plain-spoken comments of the Press of the Pacific slope on the subject. One newspaper makes it quite clear that the American exporter will expect the Bureau to lighten the burden of his difficulties in securing unrestricted entrance to China, on equal terms with other nations which may be more favoured by geographical position or other conditions. Our contemporary remarks that, "The action of the State Department, prompted, as it was, by the rapid expansion of American interests in the Orient, ought to emphasize the insistent demand of the Pacific coast for more liberal treatment at the hands of the Federal Government. If it is necessary for the State Department to establish a separate Bureau to deal with Oriental questions, why isn't it necessary for the Government to do many other things to accommodate the constantly expanding commercial interests of the Pacific coast in Far Eastern countries?" British merchants have not the slightest reason to fear the effects which may accrue from the operations of the Bureau, for whatever benefits may be obtained by the intervention of the American Department are certain to be equally distributed. If the Bureau could succeed in inducing China to give effect to the terms of the Mackay treaty—which has been shelved for four years—and in particular, guarantee the protection of trade marks and the standardisation of China's monetary system, then it will have achieved a result for which all the nations trading with the Celestial Kingdom will call it blessed.

MARKVIST in the course of an interview at Shimomaki contradicts the rumour of his resignation, and adds that he will return to Korea in one month. It has proved a difficult matter to effect complete separation between the new and the old Emperor. A Customs union between Japan and Korea, he stated, is not contemplated.

THE CHARACTER OF CHINESE EMIGRANTS.

(20th August.)

In these days, when a number of people in Europe and America, educated and illiterate alike, are sincerely convinced that the Chinese and rampant vice are practically synonymous terms it is interesting for once to read the report of an English Commission which was specially appointed to inquire into the habits of Chinese living in a particular district. The natural propensity of the Commission is to lay bare evils which the members have been led to believe actually exist, although they may not be visible to the untrained eye; and they usually start out joyfully to wallow in mire if only to afford reason for their original appointment. Some of the members of the Liverpool City Council, egged on, doubtless, by local demagogues and labour charlatans, came to the conclusion that the Chinese quarter in that city was a veritable hotbed of crime, immorality and vice generally. Accordingly a Commission was appointed with instructions: "To investigate and report upon the condition of Chinese settlements in the city, and to invite evidence as to the moral and economic effects of the increased importation of the Chinese into the city." The resolution further called the attention of His Majesty's Government to the serious increase of Chinese in Liverpool, and strongly urged the Home Secretary "to rigidly enforce the provisions of the recent Act relating to the immigration of aliens, in the interests of the moral welfare of the people and the duty which the State owes to the many unfortunate unemployed of our own countrymen." It will be seen that the Commissioners were in reality handed a mandate by the anti-Chinese section of the Council to provide reasons and furnish evidence in proof of the iniquities committed by the aliens of the Orient, in order that the terms of the Act might be more strictly interpreted when Chinese were concerned. The Commission began its sittings in January last and held twenty meetings, at which the Chinese community was represented by counsel. Twenty-five years ago, the report states, there were very few Chinese in Liverpool, which is not at all surprising, all things considered, but the number had been gradually increasing, until in 1900, according to official estimates, there were no fewer than 224 resident and 132 transient Chinamen in Liverpool, so that all the pother was around some 356 members of the Middle Kingdom. To the ordinary person not afflicted with myopia there would seem to be something ridiculous in the idea of appointing a special Commission and wasting the valuable time of professional and business men in an effort to discover the character of a handful of aliens among a population of over half a million. But apparently the city fathers of Liverpool did not see it in that light; however, that is by the way. The report begins by stating that the Chinese come to Liverpool in various ways, but it is held as probable that for the most part they are members of ships' crews who have deserted, or have come as ordinary passengers. They chiefly find employment in the management of boarding-houses or in laundries. There are also a few shops kept by Chinamen. The evidence given by the various witnesses was mainly directed to giving the Commission information upon the following points: (1) Morality of the Chinese; (2) habits and mode of living; (3) economic aspect, especially having regard to the manner of immigration, employment, rates of wages of seamen, etc. One of the first things the Commission discovered was that gambling undoubtedly prevailed among the Chinese, but as Liverpool and its neighbour Manchester are probably the greatest gambling centres in England that point could not be expected to have had much weight. Moreover, as the Commission found that the only crime resulting from gambling which had ever come to the knowledge of the police occurred in 1904, the question of gambling could scarcely form a serious count in any indictment which might be framed against the Chinese. Then the Commission turned to that old bugbear of the rafter—the evil of opium smoking. Remembering how England has been overrun by a number of people, born with the gift of the gab, who have railed against the criminality of the British Government in allowing India to pander to the deplorable habit indulged in to excess by all sorts and conditions of Chinese, how the opium evil was sapping the vitals of the Empire and flourishing, a cancerous growth, throughout the Orient, threatening to spread its unholy bonds over the nations of the West, we can well imagine that the smug reformer turned with complacency, if not avidity, to that section of the report dealing with the opium habit. They must have opened their eyes in amazement at the extraordinary statements made by the Commission which reported that "opium smoking is undoubtedly indulged in, but it is principally amongst the Chinese seamen that the habit prevails, as distinguished from the resident Chinamen. As far as the Commission could ascertain, a large number of the resident Chinamen are not in the habit of using the drug. There has been evidence brought before the Commission of opium smoking in certain laundries. This is, simply flying in the face of providence, after all the oceans of ink and typhoons of exhausted oratory that have been lavished upon the horrible effects of opium-smoking to which, as all untravellers persons know full well, every Chinaman is addicted. Not a hint here about the gaunt, haggard faces of the depraved opium fiend who has fallen victim to the embraces of the death-dealing siren; not a word about the

miseries and torments suffered by all. Indeed the Commission found that "a large number of the resident Chinese" never dreamt of using the drug. If only the infatuated believers in the wild and wholly unsupported assertions of those who claim to speak for the Chinese could be led to realise that that fact is equally applicable to all China there would be less talk about the extinction of opium-smoking in the Far East and fewer attempts to impose impossible conditions on those British colonies which derive a substantial revenue from a perfectly legitimate trade. On the subject of immorality the Commissioners found exactly what they probably expected to find, that contraventions of the law had occurred and that there were those whose passions were not always to be regulated by stereotyped by-laws; but they could not brand the Chinese community as in any respect worse than any other section of the population. Regarding the habits and mode of living, the Commission found that "the lodging-houses kept by the Chinese, under the supervision of the Health Authorities, are cleanly and well conducted, and kept in satisfactory conformity with the by-laws and regulations in force in the city. The Commission attach great importance to the fact that boarding-houses are regularly inspected without warning, by officers of the Health Committee, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 1.30 a.m., in addition to inspection by day at all hours." With respect to laundries the report stated that the Medical Officer of Health was of opinion that these compared favourably with the ordinary English laundries. In connection with the increase in the number of Chinese in Liverpool, the Commission sapiently observed that: "It is possible that some of the Chinamen may have been born in Hongkong and so be British subjects." It was found that in Liverpool there are 49 laundries, 13 boarding-houses, and seven shops kept by Chinese. As to the manner in which Chinamen became resident in Liverpool, some came as passengers in small numbers on board ship and others had deserted their ships. With regard to the former the Commissioners were unanimously of opinion that the Aliens Act needed strengthening by making the regulations more stringent, though they stated that they wished to avoid in any way taking up an antagonistic attitude to Chinamen in particular as opposed to other nationalities. Respecting deserters it was pointed out that Chinese sailors and firemen shipped in Hongkong or any other Chinese port are paid 14 dollars per month (in English money 31s. 6d.). If shipped in Liverpool the Chinese sailor got £3. 10s. while a British seaman got from £3. 10s. to £4. 10s. "It will thus be seen that there is a great inducement to a man to desert his ship, if only for the purpose of joining another vessel at the advanced rate of pay." From beginning to end the report is a vindication of the Chinese in Liverpool, both resident and transient, and we can well believe that many who read its terms will fully endorse the addendum which a minority—one-fourth of the Commission—signed, as follows: "We approve of above report except the following paragraph: 'The Commission, having considered carefully the evidence placed before them, are of opinion that the inquiry has been justified.'"

THE SANITARY BOARD IN SESSION.

(21st August.)

Without the Sanitary Board the gaiety of Hongkong would be very seriously imperilled, for there are few delights which can more successfully entertain the public than the academic discussions which take place there on questions affecting the minutiae of civic administration. At yesterday's meeting a most important problem cropped up relating to the care of lost and pariah dogs, in connection with the debate on the Estimates of the Department, and it is satisfactory to know, on the authority of the Medical Officer of Health who interjected a remark in reply to one of the unofficial members, that there are no "strays" in Hongkong at the present moment. But the question of the Estimates for the Sanitary Department is worthy of higher consideration than the quibbling about the fate of unclaimed dogs, and, parenthetically, it may be observed that in the Straits the matter is settled by an official arm d with a gun. These are the first Estimates that have appeared with reference to the Sanitary Department since the report of the Commission appointed to deal with sanitary affairs was published. The work of the Commission was primarily to discover methods whereby the administration of the Department could be improved, but there is no lesson to be learned from the Estimates for next year that the recommendations of the Commission have borne fruit, unless we assume that the alleged saving of some \$8,000 is a proof of good intentions. Unfortunately, the members of the Sanitary Board seem to have run away with the idea that they were called upon to pass the Estimates, which was absurd. All they were required to do was to express opinions on the items proposed for next year's work, and, where necessary, to make suggestions which would be considered by the Legislative Council. Yet we read of one member saying, "I move that the item be struck out," and another, with unnecessary vigour, saying, "I flatly refuse to pass them," the "them" being the footnotes, which are like the flowers that bloom in the spring. There were other remarks of a similar character such as, "We are asked to vote nearly half a million dollars" which betrayed singular unconcern for the real position. In fact, the debate if it may be characterized as such, was merely a preliminary canter for those who are agn the Government and probably it should not be

taken too seriously. The President was in one of his characteristic moods, entirely sarcastic and occasionally practical: witness his opening remark: "There are small savings under various heads which I can inform you of, if you wish it." The proviso is exquisite, but it is not business. Coming to some of the points dealt with by the speakers, Mr. Hooper appears to have suggested that the office of inspector of markets was "altogether useless," and "that the work could be carried out by other inspectors." It is charitable to assume that on the spur of the moment and in pursuance of a desire for reform, Mr. Hooper gave vent to sentiments which in the bald light of day can hardly be deemed durable. The markets of Hongkong are by no means on a par with those elegant institutions in London, known as workhouses, and to suggest that a casual glance by a busy sanitary inspector is sufficient to secure their cleanliness is to say the thing that is not. Mr. Hooper would have the senior inspector undertake the duty, in accordance with the terms of the Health Commission's report, but has Mr. Hooper reflected upon what duties the Commission would already burden the senior inspectors? The Registrar-General was far from diplomatic when he bluntly said that it did not matter what name the man was called, and probably the man would follow that up with the observation that the salary's the thing. We are quite certain that the great majority of the intelligent and thoughtful section of Hongkong will support us when we hold that we need adequate and continuous supervision of our markets—even if we have to dispense with the services of some of our rat-catchers. The humour of it all is that members of the Board should confess their ignorance of what is happening. Were such a submission made before British municipal electorates there would be trouble indeed. It was an eminently sane remark that Mr. Hewitt made, with reference to the permanent employment of the plague staff, when he said that the trained men should be retained at all costs. We are, happily, emerging from the plague area by degrees, but that does not estimate the admirable though disagreeable service which these men do quietly and unostentatiously. It was unfortunate that Mr. Hewitt should have made the *gaucherie* regarding the presentation of the proposed Estimates to the Sanitary Board, and to speak of the Officer Administering the Government as "graciously" pleased to do something or other, because his speech on the whole was an entire vindication of the work of the Government. Mr. Hewitt, and with all humility we aver it, is on the side of the Government even in its sternest diatribes, because as a public servant in two British communities for a period covering his residence in the Far East he cannot fail to recognise the honestly fair principles which actuate British officialdom. It is not a pleasant thing to speak about, but one is compelled to give attention to a small item which appeared on the agenda of yesterday's meeting. A Chinese restaurateur made an application about a water tank on his premises and it was said: "As the removal of the tank meant the ruin of his business he trusted the Board would grant him permission to retain it." A humble and simple petition. Of all the members, Mr. Lau Chu Pak was the only one who thought it necessary to say that the man should not be ruined if possible, Mr. Hooper taking the higher and more judicial ground that the applicant should state his case before the Board. No discussion arose on such a trivial matter, although the question of stray dogs assumed wonderful proportions. The application was refused.

THE MANCHURIAN LOAN FIASCO.

(22nd August.)

We have repeatedly referred to the danger facing Japan in floating loans which, however guaranteed, were apparently beyond the actual resources of the country. It is perfectly true that our ally has adopted a tentative measure of financial reform by the conversion of the various foreign loans into one consolidated debt, but it is still difficult to see how Japan can meet the annual interest required and also build up a sinking fund. It is frequently suggested that because the United Kingdom carries a sort of perpetual National Debt the Britain of the Orient can afford to do the same; but the conditions are far from being analogous. The people of Great Britain have the money, the hard cash to put it plain, whereas Japan is simply in the position of the heir presumptive. If it had not been for the extraordinary efforts of a few financial geniuses Japan, a few months ago, would have experienced the greatest crisis that had ever befallen her, for there were many banks on the verge of dissolution. The result of the war unquestionably inflated the ideas of the people, and loan after loan was floated simultaneously in London, Paris and New York, until investors became suspicious and finally refused to part with their money. The result of it all was that when the Manchurian Railway issue was placed on the market it fell flat—"a fiasco" is the phrase used by such an authority as the *P. M. G.* As our contemporary says: "If it were possible to place a loan successfully with the public, the London advisers would have succeeded. But circumstances were against it. Minor causes at work were that the repeated borrowings of Japan had aroused a certain spirit of criticism, and that the slightly strained relations with the United States were not appreciated. There would certainly be no money in Europe for a Japanese war, though that is not fortunately within the bounds of possibility. Then, with a few people was unfortunately that on the day that Japan was seek-

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MAIL SUPPLEMENT.
ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1907.

PROPOSED TAX ON PORTLAND CEMENT MATERIAL.

(17th August.)

For a considerable time it has been evident to those who have kept themselves acquainted with the commercial situation in Canton that a well-directed movement to restrict the cement industry for the benefit of the Government Cement Factory in Honan was on

HONGKONG AND WHAMPDOA
DUCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Duck Co., Ltd., was held in the offices of the company, Queen's Buildings, at 12 o'clock noon, today, for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors and the statement of accounts to the 30th June, 1907. There were present Mr. H. P. White (chairman), Mr. Paul Chater, the Hon. Mr. H. Kewick, Messrs. W. H. Hume, A. Haupt, C. H. Morris, A. E. Fuchs, J. Silverstone, and D. W. Craddock, directors; Mr. Mitchell, (acting chief manager), T. I. Rose (secretary), J. P. Bragg, Choo Leep Chee, W. E. Clarke, F. E. Ellis, E. George, J. W. Graham, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shui, H. H. Michael, E. J. Moses, Thomas Skinner, and H. Percy Smith.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, I will be observed that we have adopted a slightly different form in stating our accounts for this half year and, as the statement, together with the report, has been in your hands for some days, I will, with your permission, following our usual course, take them as read. The net profit for the half year ending 30th June, 1907, amounted to \$101,390.82, and this amount includes the sum \$34,850, the difference between the book value of the *Robert Cooke*, and the amount realized from its sale. For purpose of comparison, I may mention that our net profit for the six months ending 31st December, 1906, amounted to \$369,596.36, and \$403,256.44 for the corresponding period last year. Including the \$400,933.74 balance brought forward from last account, and deducting directors' and auditors' fees, we have available for appropriation the sum of \$791,580.56, and, subject to your concurrence, we propose to pay a dividend for the half year of 8% of \$4 per share, amounting to \$300,000, place further \$100,000 to the credit of No. 1 Duck Extension account and carry forward the balance \$391,580.56 to a new account, and we trust this distribution of profits will meet with your approval. It may be thought by some shareholders that the amount carried forward is unduly large, but I would remind you, gentlemen, that my predecessor in the Chair in February, 1905, informed you that we had in view an extension to the boiler shop, and this work was in progress. The report is about to be proceeded with. The numerous orders that we have in hand for steam vessels proves the necessity for this extension. It is proposed to enclose the land at the back, the purchase of which was completed last year, and to remove the gate entrances, time offices and sundry out-buildings to the new ground, so as to leave space for the addition to the boiler shop, and we have provided in the financial statement carried forward a sum sufficient to meet these requirements. The value of "material on hand" is about the same as in the last account, and you will be pleased to note that the amount due to sundry creditors is smaller by \$484,435.46, though the reduction is partly due to the amount received from the underwriters on account of the *Robert Cooke*. Under existing circumstances your directors are of opinion that the figures before you may be considered satisfactory. After fully six months' trial of the conversion of the steam mill to electric drive, our sawmill reports that an increased output of 40% is attained, and it is proposed to install a large frame saw, and to convert a hand power crane to electric drive, so that the saw mill may be on a par for efficiency with the other sections of the works. We are now beginning to get the full benefit of the electric power drive as the output approaches the capacity of the plant. The tonnage of British and foreign men-of-war docked during the past six months shows a falling off, but on the other hand, I am pleased to be able to report that the amount of merchant ship tonnage shows a decided improvement, being 475,140 tons—the largest in any half year since 1903—which may be considered a hopeful sign, as this class of work is undoubtedly the backbone of our business. As mentioned in the report, most of the damage caused by the typhoon of last year has been made good, there only remaining a sum of about \$5,000 to be expended to complete the repairs and renewals to wharves, etc. You will be pleased to note that a start has been made with the lengthening of the No. 1 Dock, so that in due course we shall be able to handle the largest class of vessels coming to Hongkong, and thus materially increase the amount of gross tonnage docked. With the amount already at the credit of the Special Account, and the sum of \$100,000 which, with your permission, I propose to add, your directors are sanguine that the extension will be completed without any call on shareholders being found necessary. Every effort is being made with a view of effecting economies, consistent with thorough efficiency, and in this connection, I would mention that a sub-committee of directors has been appointed and is now inquiring closely into the general working of the Company's business, dealing more especially with establishment charges, salaries, stock, and our buying agencies. The recommendations of the committee will be submitted to and dealt with by the full Board in due course. In the month of May Mr. Wilson, lately acting chief manager, went home on leave and Mr. R. Mitchell was appointed in his place. Gentlemen, with nothing further to remark, before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions you may wish to put.

There being no question as to the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Clarke: I have very much pleasure in seconding the proposal for the report and statement of accounts to be passed.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, that is all the business. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow morning.

GOVERNORSHIPS OF COLONIES.

Mr. Watt asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies why military men were appointed to governorships of Colonies; what were the duties which they performed in the Colonies which were suitable for that profession; and whether he would in future consider the necessity of appointing commercial or business men to these positions.

Mr. Churchill: A considerable proportion of the appointments has been held and I hope always will be filled by civilians; when a military man is appointed to be Governor the Secretary of State is satisfied that the particular individual is fully qualified to perform the general duties of government. If the hon. member will be good enough to look into the subject, he will find that in many instances the Governor also holds a commission as Commander-in-Chief, and also that in certain places the governorship is of a distinctly military character, as in the class of Malaya, Ceylon, and Bermuda, when the nominee is suggested by the Secretary of State for War. For further information I would refer your hon. friend to a detailed reply I gave to the senior member for Bath as recently as June 20 last.

THE EAST COAST PORTS OF
CHINA.

Mr. Angier continues his series of articles in the *London & China Express* on the Changing East. In the current issue of our London contemporary the East Coast Ports of China are dealt with. The writer says:—Of China, or the "Coast ports," as they are usually termed in Hongkong, are still somewhat of the beaten track. The mere tourist will probably proceed direct from Hongkong to Shanghai in the liner, unless he has some friend to visit, or has been specially recommended to make the trip *via* ports. He misses a good deal that the large centres of Hongkong, Shanghai, Tientsin, or Hankow provide him with; but the Coast ports show him a sort of front, though passing itself also, glimpse of what the erstwhile Treaty port or half life consisted in China. The ports have, indeed, lost much of those characteristics, but some few traits remain to remind one of past glories, and the time when the Mexican showed a bold front in exchange of over 4s. Commercially and socially the ports present many attractions, and well repay a visit. The time-honoured Douglas line of steamers still makes the run up as pleasantly as of yore, and only a few are remained in Hongkong of the seventeen of the Japanese competition on the line, as also to Formosa; directly you are on board you are aware that the traditions associated with the name remain intact. It was a genuine pleasure to find oneself again on the deck of the *Haitan*, and to find also the same genial skipper still in command. Nought else is then wanted, provided the elements are propitious, for the Formosa channel is a comparatively small summer canal, but equally well suited for uncomfortable conditions by the British Channel. Either forms a species of funnel up or down, while the wind becomes concentrated, and the seas of the choppiest description. Neptune fortunately proved in fairly smiling mood, and nothing much of a trying or disagreeable character prevailed. Leaving Hongkong about mid-day,

is reached at daylight next morning. Entering the port, the *locale* of the former foreign merchants' residences may still be seen at Double Island. All business is now, and has for long been done at Swatow. Here at Kialat, as it is known, are the hongs and a few of the foreign residences. The bulk of the foreign population resides across the river at Kuching. The method is generally convenient, but it is not one that has yet been adopted by the British Government. The Consul has his residence on the Kachio side, but there is no office on the Swatow side where all the business is transacted. It is an inconvenience that has been frequently pointed out. It leads to delays when, say, a British steamer wants to clear rapidly, if the papers have to be obtained from the other side of the harbour, where the water is not always entirely propitious, and the separation of offices and residences is a needless restriction. A Consulate office, as in the case of the other foreign consulates in the neighbourhood of all the offices, would be a convenience greatly facilitating shipping.

On arrival at Swatow your attention will soon be drawn to the railway to Chao-chow-fu. This place is in reality the port opened to foreign commerce. Its effect on the trade of the port can already be traced, and will doubtless increase in course of time, and other railway developments progress. The line is about 32 miles in length, and was constructed by Chinese contractors. At present the station on the Kialat side is somewhat distant, but it is intended to bring it to the river front on a new reclamation of foreshore in alignment with the reclamation already carried out. The line brought about considerable inflation in the value of land, and several people, I was informed, had no cause of complaint against the result of the railway. The line itself, I believe, is now just about medium, and with the line in the future it should soon be on a paying basis. Its ultimate destiny would seem to be that it should be a branch of the main Canton-Hankow line when the Chinese succeed in surmounting the vicissitudes by which that line is at present beset. It is hoped, at least, that the many "interests" which surround railways generally in China, and Chinese constructed lines in particular, will not militate against the connection of the Swatow section with the main trunk line. The line is now much for the railway itself and the Swatow interests. The mention of bunding for a railway terminus site calls to mind what has been done already in this way at Swatow. Twenty years ago the question of reclamation was a great and burning one at the port. The silting foreshore led to much inconvenience in handling cargo and conducting business. Now the bunding has been in great part carried out and has immensely facilitated general business. Already seven years ago much has been done, and now one can see the work completed by the China Merchants' Company, with its row of godowns on the new land. These are below the previous bunding carried out by the shipping companies and some merchants.

The foreign trade of the port has progressed and with it foreign shipping. As far as foreigners are concerned it is mainly in the way of shipping that the greatest advance can be scored; but it is principally the larger companies that are affected, smaller lines being driven out of the market. The Swatow was formerly considered one of the minor ports, but it now does a considerable trade, and yields a fair sum to the Customs Revenue. Sugar is one of the main staples, but low prices and severe competition still necessitate the shutting down of the China Sugar Company's refinery, which has been idle for years. The Hongkong refiners can produce cheaper and supply a superior article at a price that cannot be touched locally. A feature to be noted is the growth of Japanese interests and the Japanese community. Every year one sees evidences of their activity and increase. As contractors for the construction of the railway their numbers are largely augmented, and now they seem to be embarking along many other lines.

A notable change here, as I have already remarked of Canton and other places, is the creation of foreign schools. There you have the Anglo-Japanese College educating the youth of China along foreign ways, to an end no one can yet foresee. There is likewise an increase along medical missionary lines; in the directions of hospitals much good work that should bear fruit in after years is being done. Finally I may remark that Swatow district was threatened with famine at the time of my visit, unless abundant rains came soon to save the crops. Rice had greatly risen in price, and rice riots were being imported from Saigon.

AMOV.

It is the same phase just noted that one observes on entering Amoy harbour. Foreign colleges are springing up everywhere, and a striking building is seen coming up to the anchorage. It is an Anglo-Chinese college having foreign teachers. It has been provided solely out of Chinese funds, but the donors have wisely left it under foreign control on certain trust lines. Seeing the chaotic condition of much that has been and is being formulated, towards attaining the new foreign learning, it will be interesting to observe the growth of the present venture.

It will be remembered that Kulung, the island across the harbour where foreigners mainly reside, was constituted an international settlement by the Chinese Government in 1903. Its conditions have certainly been greatly improved since my last visit. It is now cared for by a municipality, which has much improved the appearance and scavenging of the roads. A rate assessment is made to which the Chinese are also amenable, whilst the little domain is more effectively policed and regulated. The residents who reside there, for the most part, are Swatow, one finds the Chinese Consulate on that side. The distance is certainly less across the harbour, and convenience is not so much interfered with, but it is certainly to be regretted that the Consulate office is not on the business side—that is Amoy. Certainly one may find by a little inquiry that a British post office exists in Amoy, but from personal experience I found that you could not purchase stamps there. To you have access to the adjacent Chinese Imperial Post Office, where there was no difficulty in readily obtaining stamps and disposing of your mail. Similarly, though a European mail had been brought up on board of the ship by no means unusual, was such that one wonders complaints were not more numerous and serious. We had made fast to the buoy at 4.30 p.m., but quarter of 5 p.m. next morning the made was still undisturbed.

This was in contrast to the greatly extended and generally punctually performed service carried out by the Chinese Customs authorities. This organisation is being greatly extended throughout the whole country. It is efficient and popular, but it has great trouble in getting satisfactory postal agents in the interior. Delinquencies are constant, and such a case as an agent gambling away Post Office funds is not uncommon. In the case mentioned to me the lost reached \$3,000, the agent had lost the money to the local magistrate, the functionary presumably who should have had the oversight of the employ, and arrested him for any such proceedings. The amount that the Post Office revenue yearly suffers from fraud must run into a large sum, little of which can be recovered. Another noteworthy matter respecting Chinese ways has been the revelations that have come to light as the result of the Native Customs being handed over to the Imperial Maritime Customs. The native staff in the Amoy district under native ways was about 300. This has now been brought down to about 25, whilst the collected revenue promptly doubled, and has since further greatly increased. This is going on all over China, as the figures which are now given by the Foreign Inspectorate abundantly show. A return is about to be made of all the revenue collected since the transfer was made, and the contrast between the figures, under native collection, and what the return shows, would be able to achieve if the revenue, actually collected and submitted to by the Chinese nation, was honestly applied. I must not, however, digress too far by following up such a reflection.

The spectacle is presented here, as happens, one may observe at most of the ports in China, of the number of foreign residents having largely increased, whilst the actual number of foreign hongs is either reduced or the number of Chinese hongs is increased. The growth seems to have arisen through increase in the number of assistants in firms necessitated by the condition that a larger turnover is required to produce the same amount, or even less, if profit than was attainable before. At most ports, also, and certainly at Amoy, the extra duties now performed by the Maritime Customs requires an additional staff to carry them out, whilst the missionary community has everywhere largely augmented, and in this connection has again largely increased, not to mention the busy activity of native launches and small steam craft of all sorts and conditions, of quaint appearance, and suggested instability and unseaworthiness. Foreign shipping has increased, and so has Japanese, whose increased interests in other directions are likewise to be observed. Shipping and tea still remain the chief objects of foreign interest at Amoy. General imports and exports of goods, practically all in Chinese hands, and the coal traffic is still a considerable matter, and shipping is largely interested in carrying emigrants back-wards and forwards, whilst the province of Fukien, in itself a poor tract of country, is equally largely interested in the remittances that come back from workers in the Straits, Siam, or other foreign countries. Should the suggested railway from Amoy to Fochow, now contemplated, and on which business the Commission arrived in Amoy the day I was there, constructed, something may be done to open out the mineral resources of the province, which are probably all it has to look to for increased prosperity. Another line from Amoy to Swatow is further in the background. It is idle to speculate when either line is likely to be consummated, viewing the position of railway matters in China, but there are many who speak hopefully of the line to Fochow being undertaken within a reasonable period of time. It would presumably be constructed by money put up by the Straits Settlements. It is a feature worth noting, perhaps, that one may see substantial residences erected on Kulung by wealthy Chinese who have returned from abroad. There they can live in comparative immunity from "squeeze," and at least they know that as regards the island they are fairly safe from arrest on spurious charges, intended only to extort money, and that they have only their municipal rates to pay. To return, however, to the railway, the completion of any lines debouching on the harbour of Amoy should be greatly beneficial to the shipping interests of the port.

The other matter I have referred to is the export of tea. This seems to be in an uncertain state. The Japanese have now been in occupation of Formosa for approaching twelve years, and they have not ceased to make efforts to deflect the trade in Oolongs from Amoy, and ship direct from Keelung to Japan and America. It is, perhaps, quite natural that these efforts should be made, and a different export of 600 a picul has now existed. Amoy still manages to secure a fair share of the trade, and Chinese are certainly interested in maintaining it. As Keelung harbour is developing so the Formosa tea trade is decreased at Amoy. The ultimate object is to make the harbour at Keelung accessible for large trans-Pacific liners, which would take the trade direct and without even the transhipment that now takes place in Japanese ports.

FOOCHOW.

Eighteen hours' run takes you from Amoy to the White Dogs rocks at the entrance of the Min River. Two hours more and the vessel reaches Pagoda Anchorage. The journey to the Min has been picturesque, and is well worth proceeding by launch for the intervening 9 miles to Fochow, or rather Nantai, where the foreign community is located across the river from the native city. The stone bridge of "Ten thousand ages" forms the connecting link with the city. You are aware on the way up that the obstruction sunk in the river in the shape of junk loads with stone, deposited over twenty years ago at the period of the French reprisals, has not yet been removed. The junk is still undisposed of, and is a source of danger

to shipping. It is pity that the junk should be attached to the channel at Pagoda Anchorage cannot have practical demonstrations by removing the obstruction. A hostile power which had penetrated so far would soon make short work of what is not a real defence to Fochow, but only a delaying barrier. The seaward defence of Fochow rests on the forts at the Kimpai and Mingan passes. The river could be rendered impregnable to hostile ships if these forts were properly armed and manned. Nature certainly has done its best to render the task of defence comparatively easy.

Fochow, by this I mean the foreign quarter at Nantai, does not exhibit any very great changes. Foreign houses have considerably increased for missionary and school purposes, for the missionary population swells continually. Two out of every three foreign constructions seem to be occupied by missionaries. It is somewhat remarkable to note the epidemic of red bricks that prevails at the time for new houses. They add a certain brightness to the town, and agree with the pine setting, which is a feature of Fochow. The roads in this foreign locality have also been considerably improved, judiciously widened here and there, and more shade trees provided. More efficient scavenging is done—though there remains room for more if effective control could be secured. One of the topics interesting to the community at the time of my visit was a suggestion to get a kind of municipality. A special form of municipal government, which added to uniform rate assessment might secure the funds needed for better police arrangements, scavenging, road-making, and such matters as are generally conducted by a municipality.

Whatever may be the condition of mercantile affairs at Fochow, and much of its former glory has, alas! departed, the community always seems to maintain what would to a casual observer seem an ever-present aspect of cheerfulness. The tea trade, the erstwhile reason for the foreigner at the port, may have largely disappeared, but you would find a trace of such a fact at the hour before dinner when the community remains at the Club. Tea still remains of some considerable importance, but it is no longer the one article of trade. Camphor is rapidly coming to the front as a considerable article of export, whilst flour and vermicelli imports have attained dimensions that are useful to foreigners. Most other commodities, including the big trade in Fochow poles, or teak, as it is called, are steadily increasing. The port taking on considerable numbers is done through Chinese hands. Though the total foreign population has considerably increased, it is almost entirely due to the missionary element. In commercial circles it seems to be the Russian tea hongs and one or two others, and enter the Japanese. It largely seems to be the case that the Japanese have gone ahead and the rest have gone after, generally speaking, though there are some, I was glad to hear, who are steady in their doing more than ever before in other articles ways apart from the tea trade. The Japanese certainly seem very active, though they have done nothing very special on their own settlement, which lies lower down the river on the front than the present foreign quarter. Nor have they yet created any particular industries, though they have a primitive glass factory where exceedingly cheap articles are produced. Fochow industries in foreign hands have not progressed. The match factory and the saw-mill on the city side are closed down, and the preparation of tea by machinery—an experiment in which was being tried on the occasion of my last visit—has ceased its operations for some years. The only industry working was the saw-mill on the Nantai side, which I found in full swing making kerosene oil boxes as the general work. The supply of poles can usually be relied on, but the native lumberers are exceedingly conservative as to the lengths into which they are cut. This is usually 9 ft. 6 in., and all industries to get them in deliver poles of, say, either 8 ft. 6 in. or to 6 ft. 6 in., which would be greatly convenient length, and save both cutting and waste, have hitherto proved abortive. Relatively the Chinamen would probably secure a better price, but their conservatism prevents any alteration being achieved. In noting the industries of Fochow in which foreigners are interested, mention should perhaps be made of the Arsenal at Pagoda Anchorage, as it carries out a certain amount of work and apart from Government requirements. Originally created under French auspices, the foreign element became eliminated till a new French mission took it in hand in the late nineties of last century. This was at the request of the French Minister in Peking. This mission exists in the autumn of the current year, and the question of its renewal is believed to be under discussion at Peking at the present time. Doubtless there will be the same local opposition to renewal, for it is the Fukien authorities who have to pay its cost, and it is believed that they do not get the payment from the provincial revenue. Apart from this, China is contemplating a new naval arsenal situated somewhat to the north of Fochow in Central China. The province can plead that it is poor, and cannot afford such luxuries as arsenals off its own bat. It has practically to live to itself, for nature has shut it off from easy communication except by sea. Hills surround it and it has few outlets. This fact has benefited it likewise at times, for the natural barrier provided saved it from the devastating effects of the great rebellion. Apart from minerals, which are said to exist, but have not been properly exploited, a chief source of its wealth consists of the labour it exports. This in turn sends home considerable remittances, or the erstwhile coolie returns with wealth to spend at home. Should the railway from Amoy be constructed, it will provide some communication within the province. If it is to reach the sea, there are reasons that a high-level bridge over the Min River must be bridged by Fochow, the Min River must be bridged. There are signs of the suspension variety, which can be constructed at either the Kimpai or Mingan Pass. Such an erection need present no great difficulty to the engineers, though the cost must necessarily be considerable. But the proposal of the whole line has yet to advance somewhat before the serious proposition need be taken in hand.

The same eager desire for foreign learning witnessed elsewhere is likewise in evidence in Fochow. Within the city there is a high school, a normal school, a military school, and a police school. Certainly energy is apparent in this direction, and one is set to wondering again what the outcome of all this activity is. Will it alter clear of the shoals and pitfalls that beset the path of the proverbial little knowledge? And above all—and it is the real serious question, for the ultimate success of China, will it be the means of bringing the great and all-powerful aid of Science? Until he is determined and China's vast resources harnessed with some degree of honesty to reform will never have truly penetrated the country. In official circles there was at the time of my visit a tolerably large case of squeeze plagin under nominal investigation. The Tartar General, who has been Acting Viceroy, is openly said to be a great offender as the official—a man well known to foreigners—under trial, but he is too big to touch. As the culprit is believed to have appropriated a not inconsiderable number of

tales, and as the case appeared to try him in a notorious give to the public, it is probable that a consideration, it is probable that with some easing of the wheels, the present case will be slurred over. The public is again defrauded, but is powerless to act. A new Viceroy is about to take up the post at Fochow, but whether he will clean out the stable remains to be seen. His attitude to foreigners is also unknown, for he has not had dealings with them. Sung Shu has succeeded fairly recently since 1903, a followed the Emperor Dowager and Emperor to Si-ngan-fu, in that year, on the flight of the Court, and has since then been *persona grata*. He has been Governor of Kiangsi, of Kiangsu, and of Honan, and has recently held a position on one of the Boards at the Metropolis. As a Viceroy, he is yet untried.

Commercially Fochow generally is keeping up its figures fairly well, even though the foreigner may not have a large share in it as he would desire. Owing to the method of calculation now employed, the gross figures of exports and imports come out at the total of Hk. 716, 330,000 for 1906. The actual net value of the trade is Hk. 715, 793,000. As sterling exchange had a higher average valuation in 1906 (of over 3s. 3d. per taël), the sterling value comes out greatly in excess of 1905. It is gratifying to know also, from figures kindly supplied to me, that the export trade shows some improvement. The respective figures are:—

	1905.	1906.
Black	141,000 cwts. against 112,000	
Brick	60,000 " " 50,000	
Green	1,000 " " 50	

The efforts that are being made to revive interest in China tea and increase its consumption in the United Kingdom have been favourably received in Fochow, and the port will doubtless acquiesce in any general line of policy that may be adopted. What may be done remains yet to be seen. In one way Fochow and China are generally in a disadvantage as regards its Ceylon and Indian rivals. The freight on tea is certainly 5s. a ton cheaper than some years ago, but it is still 45s. per ton of 40 cubic ft. against a rate of 30s. per ton of 40 cubic ft. at which its rival can be shipped to London from Colombo or Calcutta. The newly-formed China Tea Association hopes to enlist the sympathies and assistance of all engaged in the trade in the Far East. In a circular letter recently received at the port it is pointed out that the native Guilds should be impressed with the desirability of the movement, so that they may urge on the Chinese Government that they are vitally affected. It is hoped that the Imperial Government may assist, for the answer previously given—when assistance was sought to save the trade—that the trade was not lost but only diverted, is not as correct now. What Great Britain then failed to take was exported to Russia. That plea no longer holds, for the actual export and consequently the revenue have both declined. The Chinese Legation in London has, I notice, been approached on the matter to get the Imperial Government to take measures to assist the export, but more is hoped by the Association from representations by the Guilds to their own authorities. It is certainly more to China's own interests that she should help herself and not leave it solely to the foreigner interested in the trade to do all the propagandist work. China can meet its rivals on a more equal basis if not for price, but it must take modern methods of making itself known. The association promises that any efforts made by the Imperial Government and the growers—the two classes most nearly affected—will be seconded by efforts at home. It is a pity a more determined effort to meet the enterprise that Ceylon and India have shown has not been previously made, for markets that might have been held have been partially captured, and will require much energy to regain.

From tea one may turn to a comparatively new export, which, for the present at least, bids fair to provide the foreign merchant with some other considerable item on the export list. The export of camphor may be said to have commenced with small shipments, amounting in all to only 22 piculs in 1903. In the succeeding year the figures rose to 1,210 piculs. By 1905 the export had reached 4,637 piculs, and last year came to 11,369 piculs, of a value of about two millions of dollars. If the figures of 1907 keep on in relation to what has been done to the end of April it is certain that 1907 will largely exceed the export of 1906. Particulars as to the probable duration of the trade vary much, for inasmuch as it takes 40 years to produce a matured camphor tree the output cannot be augmented at will in any reasonable period. The tree, it will be borne in mind, is cut down and consequently destroyed to secure the marketable product. Estimates give from three to ten years as the possible life that the tree from existing sources may continue. It is quite impossible to predict which period is likely to prove correct, though the balance of opinion favours the longer date. It has at least assisted the foreign trade of the port, and the foreigner has had a fair share of the export of the new commodity. Chinese are also considerable exporters to Hongkong.

CHINESE COOLIE EMIGRATION.

U.S. Consul Harry L. Paddock reports as follows concerning the emigration of coolie labourers from Amoy to British India and the Straits Settlements:

Consideration of the local shipping in Amoy shows a steady increase in the tonnage and number of ships entering and clearing. This is due both to the increasing imports and also to the enormous growth of emigration from Amoy annually to furnish labour for the Malay archipelago.

The Amoy coolie is a splendid type of labourer. His outdoor life has neutralized, to a great extent, the evil effects of the opium habit. He is of no mean mental capacity and his physical powers are wonderful. He is of a strangely un-Chinese type, more resembling the Spanish or Mexican than any other type in China. He is incapable of any work requiring a high idealism, but is a hard and continuous labourer, possessing all the intelligence and manual dexterity common to his race. It is this type that is emigrating to the East Indies and to the Straits Settlements by the thousands. Each week during the season, which extends from October to May each year, 45,000 coolies leave Amoy, and during the rest of the year enough more leave to bring the full annual total to 1,000,000. Of these fully 90 per cent. are paid about \$3 gold for a round trip per man. It will be seen that the income from this traffic is large, amounting, as it does, to about \$1,000,000 a gold per year. This income is almost clear profit, as the accommodations for the coolie are all; he supplies his own food and bedding and sleeps where he can. Practically the sole expense attending the trade is the bare cost of operation of the ship, and this is more than doubly paid by the profit on the sugar, paper and merchandise carried. During the past year three new lines of 3,000-ton steamers have been put into this trade, all under the management of British firms in London and Hongkong.

INTERPORT POLO.

SHANGHAI POLO CLUB V. THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT.

The Interport Polo match between Shanghai and the team sent from Hongkong by the Middlesex Regiment, for which Mr. Henry Kewick has presented a handsome challenge cup, took place on Polo Ground, last evening, reports the *N. C. Johnson* 16th inst., under perfect weather conditions and on a fast ground. The Polo Club's pavilion was crowded to its utmost capacity and the ropes on the West side of the ground were lined three-deep by spectators.

At 5.9 p.m. the teams entered the field and were composed as follows:—

Shanghai.—Messrs. J. Johnstone, K. J. McEuen, G. Dallas and G. A. Rubin.
Middlesex Regt.—Colonel Scott-Moncrieff, Capt. Davy, Lieuts. Dixon and Large.
In the first chukka Shanghai defended the North goal, and immediately the ball was thrown in Hongkong gained possession and made a good run down-field, which was stopped by McEuen. Johnstone then carried the ball along the right boundary and transferring at the right moment, enabled Dallas to send in a shot at goal, which was, however, well stopped, going unrelieved and play was carried into the Shanghai half, but Johnstone, Dallas, playing well together, brought the ball up to the Hongkong goal, when Dallas shot, but unsuccessfully. Shortly after Johnstone and Dallas again attacked, and Johnstone shot at goal, but missed. During the remainder of the chukka play ruled fairly even and though Hongkong showed rather better combination, their ponies were beaten for pace. When the bell announced that the first eight minutes had elapsed, neither side scored.

In the second chukka a hit-off by Dixon was followed by a good run down-field by the Hongkong team and Large made a shot at goal which narrowly missed the mark. Dallas then made a run down field at a great pace, along the right boundary, but the ball went out opposite the Pavilion, and play settled down in midfield. In this chukka play was very fast and at this stage the ball was sent from end to end of the field in quick succession. At length, Kobles took the ball well down-field to the neighbourhood of the Hongkong goal, and riding off the Hongkong back, gave McEuen a clear opening of which he made the best use and put the ball between the posts. The rest of the play in this chukka ruled fairly even and when time was called Shanghai led by one goal to nil.

From the third chukka, Dixon and Davy carried the ball towards the Shanghai goal, but was quickly transferred to Hongkong territory, where Kobles made a good opening, but missed the ball. Shanghai continued to press for some time, but missed two good opportunities of shooting. After a short spell of play in neutral territory, Hongkong got within distance and remained there until Kobles and Johnstone relieved with a good run down-field to the Hongkong goal. Davy and Large got the ball well away, but were well stopped by Dallas, and Kobles cleared cleverly to mid-field. A brief attack by Shanghai included an unsuccessful shot at goal by Johnstone and then Hongkong gradually worked the ball up to the Shanghai goal, where Dixon found an excellent opening, but before he could turn his pony to shoot, was cleverly checked by Dallas. Immediately afterwards, just as time was up, the ball was worked by Shanghai into the right-hand corner of the Hongkong goal, from which Johnstone shot a splendid goal. This concluded the third chukka and Shanghai stood on clover, with two goals to their credit and only six minutes and a half left for the fourth chukka.

At the opening of the fourth chukka, Shanghai at once got possession of the ball and a good drive up by Dallas enabled Johnstone to shoot, but unsuccessfully. For a couple of minutes there was a series of scrambling in front of the Hongkong goal, in the course of which Johnstone made a good but unsuccessful shot. At length Hongkong got the ball away and after a good run down-field play settled down in front of the Shanghai goal, where after Dixon and Davy had made repeated shots, the former at last put the ball through just on the call of time. The game thus resulted in a victory for Shanghai by two goals to one.

THE JAPANESE SPINNING INDUSTRY.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST BRITISH ENGINEERS.

Loud complaints are heard from the Japanese cotton spinners of the delay in the delivery of mill machinery ordered from England. The *Osaka Asahi* observes that since last year most of the cotton spinning companies in Japan decided to extend their mills and ordered from England large plants of spinning machinery and steam engines necessary for the projected extension of the works. But it is asserted that none of the machines and engines so ordered have been delivered in the time agreed upon. In some cases the goods delivered were three or four months behind, and in the worst cases even six months late. The spinning machines ordered by Japanese spinning companies from England through the Mitsui Bussan and other agents since last year are for a total of 555,000 spindles, valued at about ¥20,000,000 to be delivered during the ensuing two years. At present not more than 20 per cent. of the whole has been delivered, and loud complaints are heard of delay in delivery. It is feared that the spinning companies may be involved in heavy losses by the delay in the delivery of the machines, and the reputation of English manufacturers may suffer in Japan.

The British Consul at Kobe, adds the *Osaka Journal*, recently made some inquiries of the spinning companies in Osaka and Kobe as to the truth of the complaints, and received many answers complaining of delay in delivery. The Consul, it is stated, heard little to indicate that the machines delivered from England showed any tendency towards deterioration. The *Osaka paper*, however, cites a few instances of such complaints.

Of 50 weaving-frames ordered by the Kaseguchi Spinning Company many arrived in a damaged condition owing to careless packing, and many of the accessories were found broken. A portion of the 25,000 spindles due to arrive this year (out of a total of 60,000 spindles) ordered by the Fujiyama Spinning Company, Kobe, arrived in a very bad condition, and moreover behind time. The steam engines and boilers ordered by the Godo Spinning Company of Osaka, which were to be shipped at the end of March last, have not yet arrived. The engine to be fitted at the Temma Mills arrived at Kobe only a few days ago, but without shafting. The manufacturers in England who received the order took no notice of repeated communications protesting for the delivery of the engines in better condition. It has since been discovered that they had taken orders for an electric motor plant of 6,000 horse-power from a certain English firm, and also a large order from Russia for steam boilers. By the delay in the delivery of these boilers, the running of the new machines for 10,000 spindles, which have been fitted at the Temma Mills, will be delayed about six months.—*Japan Chronicle*.

SANITARY BOARD.

FORTNIGHTLY MEETING.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held last Tuesday afternoon, when the following business was transacted:—

SANITARY DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES.
Draft estimates for the Sanitary Department for the year 1908 were tabled. Below is appended 1907's estimate, as compared with that of 1907:—

	Approved Estimate, 1907.	Estimated, 1908.
General Remunerals	\$219,655	\$219,655
Other Charges	234,574	226,753
Total	\$454,229	\$446,408

THE CUBICLE QUESTION IN KOWLOON.

The report of the Committee relative to the cubicle accommodation in Kowloon was laid on the table. It is a most voluminous report, showing numerous plans, and dealing with the matter most carefully. In the report 744 houses, containing 2,366 floors, situated in the four chief districts of Kowloon, viz., Hungsham, Tsim-tai-tui, Yau-mat-tai and Mongkok-tai, are fully dealt with. Mr. Shelton Hooper minutes: This report requires careful consideration by a Committee. The Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewitt: Should be referred to a sub-committee.

NEW KOWLOON SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

In reference to the application regarding the position for a new slaughter house at Ma Tau Kok, correspondence was submitted on the subject.

Mr. A. W. Brewin, Registrar General writes: I have received petitions from the butchers and cattle dealers in the Kowloon Peninsula against the proposed removal of the depot and slaughter house from Hungsham to Ma Tau Kok. I attach a précis of the reasons given by petitioners against the proposal and recommend the matter to be considered by the Board. (1) Trouble may be caused by the oxen eating the vegetables growing in the market gardens at Ma Tau Kok. (2) That the passing and stamping of the cattle does not take place until 6 a.m. Mr. Tai Wai being further away than the present situation of the slaughter house, it will take three times as long to reach the market in Hongkong as it does at present, with the consequence that the meat would arrive too late for sale. (3) There is no Government wharf at Ma Tau Kok, nor any crane to lift the burdens. (4) Starting from Ma Tau Kok at 12 noon the meat could arrive with a favourable East wind in Hongkong at 3 p.m. but in summer, as there would be a favourable East wind, rowing would have to be resorted to and Hongkong would only be reached at 7 or 8 at night, too late for the markets. (5) As regards pigs they would have to be taken from Shek-ton-tai to Ma Tau Kok if the slaughter house is to be at the latter place. (6) The pig men say the best place for the slaughter house would be at or near the Pumping Station at Yau-mat-tai, or the cattle men say at Mongkok Wai, which would be on the Tai-po road, by which road the cattle arrive from the country.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon writes: For the convenience of the public and the butchers and that the meat may arrive in the market in good condition it is advisable that the slaughter house be as conveniently situated as possible. On the other hand the nature of the work done in the slaughter house makes it desirable that it should be as far as possible. The objections offered to Ma Tau Kok are chiefly that it is far away. I quite agree with them. Pigs are principally killed at Hungsham and pork is quickly deteriorated by hot weather and handling. The Hong Kong D.O. will be best able to say where land is available, I beg to suggest somewhere in the neighbourhood of Mongkok-tai. There are little valleys, in behind some of which are quite secluded and away from dwelling houses, and at the same time could be made very easily accessible from the main road. This would be fairly near the depot and convenient for landing animals from Hongkong or taking away meat. I think the time has come for considering the advisability of a small slaughter house for pigs only at Kowloon City, though the direction of the new road from Mongkok to Hungsham might make a slaughter house necessary. At present there is practically no supervision of animals killed in Kowloon City. About to pigs a day are killed for local consumption only.

KOWLOON MARKET.

The question of providing a market for the sale of European food at Kowloon was dealt with, when the following letters were read:— I find that in October, 1900 the Government promised to prepare a scheme for providing a market at Kowloon Point for the sale of European food. The non-Chinese population of the Kowloon peninsula was then 895. It is now 2,245. In 1901 the European population was 668; it is now 1,467. I should like these facts brought to the notice of the Board.

(Sd.) A. W. BREWIN, Registrar General.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

Hongkong, 8th February, 1907.

Sanitary Department, 7th March.

Sir—I have the honour by direction of the Board, to report that the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board at the meeting held on the 5th instant.

"That the Board recommend that provision be made in next year's estimates for a market at Kowloon Point for the sale of European food."

The erection of a market at Kowloon Point was recommended in Sanitary Board letter No. 142, dated September 28, 1900 and a reply, No. 1,946, was received informing the Board that the Government is prepared to take steps for the preparation of a scheme for providing a market for Kowloon. It was estimated that the cost of the erection of the market would be \$81,000 and \$5,000 were voted for the preparation of the site, which has now been prepared. The reasons adduced in support of the erection of a market will be found in the above-quoted Sanitary Board letter.

I may add that the non-Chinese population of the Kowloon Peninsula was 895 in 1900; it is now 2,245. The European population was 668; it is now 1,467.

(Sd.) G. A. WOODCOCK, Secretary.

To the Colonial Secretary.

On the 1st August the Secretary of the Sanitary Board wrote to the Colonial Secretary:—I have the honour to point out that no reply has yet been received to my letter (No.

14, dated March 7th, 1907) recommending that provision be made in next year's estimates for a market at Kowloon Point for the sale of European food.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 3rd August.

Sir,—Referring to your minute of the 1st instant, I am directed to state that the question of the erection of a market at Kowloon Point has been noted for consideration with the Estimates for 1908 in September next.

(Signed) F. H. MAY, Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

A NEGLIGENT CONTRACTOR.

The following letter, dated 24th July, is from Mr. W. Bryan, Sanitary Surveyor, to the Principal Civil Medical Officer of Health, relative to the drains at "Chalet," the Peak.—On the 17th instant I received a memo from Messrs. Palmer and Turner asking that the new drains at "The Chalet," Peak, be tested. I sent for the contractor, Yeung Yui, on the 18th instant, who informed me that the drains were not ready. I then told him to let me know when they were ready.

He attended my office on the 20th inst., and said that they would be ready on Monday, the 22nd. I told him that I would go up on that day. I visited the works, but there were no workmen on the job, and the drains were not ready for inspection. His excuse was that there was a defect in the pipe which he had to make good but as I saw no workmen there I think the excuse is a very poor one.

Under Drainage by-law 32 the Board have power to inflict a fine for such neglect, and I suggest that they do so in this instance.

On the 10th instant, Messrs. Palmer and Turner received the following letter from the Secretary of the Sanitary Board.—I am directed by the Board to inform you that the question of fitting Yeung Yui, drainage contractor, under Drainage by-law 32, was considered by the Board at the meeting held on the 6th instant. The question of fitting the contractor arose out of the manner in which he carried out certain drainage work at "The Chalet," Peak, when employed by you. The Board decided before taking action to ask you whether you could give an explanation of the negligence of the contractor.

Messrs. Palmer and Turner's reply reads:—In reply to your letter re the drainage works at the above place we can give no excuse for the negligence of the contractor, and see no reason why he should not be fined. He took an unnecessarily long time in completing the work, thereby causing both the tenants and ourselves a considerable amount of annoyance. We inspected the works on the 16th ult., and found the drain nearly completed and were informed by the contractor that same would be finished that day; consequently we wrote to the Sanitary Surveyor on the 17th ult., requesting him to have the drain tested. We consider the contractor has no excuse for failing to have the necessary arrangements made for the testing.

Mr. Shelton Hooper minutes—The fine should be imposed.

Mr. Humphreys—Certainly, the maximum penalty.

THE MACLEOD-OSSORIO PROSECUTION.

THE SETTLEMENT.

The *Colombo* is able to give its readers the truth in the settlement between Aldecoa and Company, and Alejandro Macleod, the well-known merchant of Manila, and Miguel Ossorio, broker, by which the latter named gentlemen were able to avoid a criminal prosecution.

This settlement was effected yesterday, says the Manila paper of 15th inst., by the payment of a quarter of a million pesos to the offended company by the accused Macleod and Ossorio. Of this sum \$160,000 was paid in shares of the many Estate, \$45,000 was paid in notes, and the balance—business—associated with Macleod and Ossorio, and a one-half interest in the Alejandro Macleod property along the bay in Manila, on which the residence was burned some time ago, answers for the remainder of the peace money.

When this settlement had been made by the parties to the affair, word was sent to Macleod and Ossorio in Macao and the latter at once went to Hongkong, under the impression that he was no longer in danger of arrest.

The Hongkong authorities had received no word of any change to Ossorio's status, so the Governor-General of the Philippines, and Ossorio was at once placed under arrest. Then the Hongkong police communicated with Manila and learned that the case against Ossorio had fallen to the ground because the prosecuting witness no longer desired to prosecute and the government was powerless to proceed under the circumstances. Ossorio was set at liberty.

As soon as the arrangements had been made, the attorney for Aldecoa and Company advised the prosecuting attorney that his client no longer desired to prosecute the fugitives and there was nothing to do but to ask the court to dismiss the charges that had been filed. Mr. Macleod is still in Macao.

ACCIDENT ON THE YANGTSE.

There was a very swift current running in the Yangtze last Saturday (10th inst.) which caused quite a number of accidents amongst the native craft. About 11.30 a.m. a large junk becoming unmanageable, struck the bows of the s.s. *Yokyang* lying alongside the Nishin Kisen Kaisha's upper bulk and turned on her side, the current carrying the boat down river; finally she got across the bow of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's lower bulk where she went to pieces. Later in the day another large junk, the *Just*, finished discharging her cargo of cotton yarn into the s.s. *Yokyang Maru* when the rope that she was tied to the side of the ship with broke and the boat started to drift down river with nobody on board. After striking the s.s. *Kianfu* and sweeping all the cargo boats away that were discharging into the ship she got across Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's large pontoon where a crowd of natives jumped aboard and claimed her as a derelict. Another junk, while trying to go up river against the current was swept across the bows of the s.s. *Tungting* and got caught in the anchor chain; it was several hours before she could get clear of the steamer. A sampan with 12 natives on board while trying to reach the s.s. *Yangyang* lying in the stream was caught by the current and carried into the Nishin Kisen Kaisha's lower bulk, where she was capsized. Luckily there was a big net hanging from the pontoon over which the men climbed up. It had not been for the netting the whole lot must have been drowned. A coolie while working cargo on the s.s. *Yokyang Maru* fell overboard and was not picked up until he was abreast of Messrs. Geddes & Co's pontoon where a sampan went to his assistance. A cargo-boat loaded with wood oil while coming down river, with the current tried to get to the bund but was carried on to Geddes' pontoon, only the stern of the boat struck and she was swept on to the stream; one man fell over-board but was quickly picked up by a sampan.—*Hankow Daily News.*

"THE CHINESE LANGUAGE"

SIR WALTER HILLIER'S LATEST BOOK.

"The Chinese Language and how to learn it: A Manual for Beginners." By Sir Walter Hillier, K.C.M.G., C.B., Professor of Chinese, King's College, London. Formerly Chinese Secretary to H.M.'s Legation at Peking, and sometime H.M.'s Consul-General in Korea. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd. Publishing price: 12s. 6d.

It is a little saying that there is no royal road to learning; but the present volume would appear from its neat boards and clear typography and *not* *entirely* to be an attempt to make the road an artistic one at least. There is none of the text-book appearance about it,—in fact, it would seem as if the author were determined to make the book look as little like the "formidable text-books," as he styles them, as possible, for he is of the opinion that would be learners of the Chinese tongue are discouraged at the beginning by the sight of the book put into their hands.

This latest attempt to smooth the *via difficile* to the aspirant to possess a Chinese tongue and Celestial book-knowledge is modest enough in its claim as to what a diligent study of it will produce—the result which will ensue from following out the lines of study laid down by the author. He does not inform the user of the book that it will transform him into a Chinese at all; as speech is concerned, but its aim is to start him fairly and to put him on the road to ultimate success as a speaker, a reader, and, to a certain extent at all events, a writer of the language.

This is not "Chinese without a teacher," as the constant direction of a native or other competent instructor is insisted on.

The greater part of the book is taken up with lessons of considerable length, consisting of sentences for the learner to turn into Chinese, and the Chinese sentences are placed in parallel columns the English sentences and the same sentences put into the Chinese idiom, or pidgin-English, so that here the proper sequence of words is shown, that is to say as concerns the Chinese construction, and consequently the tyro has no difficulty in the arrangement of his words as they should be. Here the element of topsy-turvydom so conspicuously present in nearly every thing Chinese when compared with our style of doing things is most marked; in fact, there is often a regular *houshe* (backwards) in the Chinese, and the Chinaman speaks backwards, reads backwards, and writes backwards; that is to say, the order of the sentences is often "inverted." Here is a good rule from the book:—"It is a safe rule, in attempting to reproduce an English sentence in Chinese, to begin by cutting out all superfluous words. It should, in fact, be treated as one would a telegraphic message and be reduced to its lowest possible dimensions, after this it may be transposed into a Chinese sentence, the latter being a mere matter of arrangement."

But to return to the lesson.—At the foot of the pages are the Chinese characters, which are to be used in the construction of the sentence given above with the spelling and tones marked according to Sir Thomas Wade's well-known system of orthography, which is the standard mode for the transliteration of the Chinese pronunciation of Mandarin; for the book is for the future student of Mandarin. The English meaning is also attached to these words. It is almost unnecessary to state that these sentences and lessons rise in gradation from the simple phrase of a few words sufficient to express the commonest everyday wants to a more complex structure with subsidiary clauses, or sentence, attached to the main one.

By the time the student has thoroughly mastered these lessons by a diligent study of them he has some 600 words at his command ready to slip in well-ordered sentences from the tip of his tongue. A list, however, of 1,000 characters is given towards the end of the book, with pronunciation and meaning. These characters are beautiful to look at, clear and distinct in typography, and some three-quarters of an inch square.

The paradigm of a verb is given, so that the learner may be able to see how moods and tenses are built up by the employment of adverbs and particles of one sort and another. The book ends with an Index of Characters according to their radicals; but we are informed that there is to be an English-Chinese Vocabulary in a second volume, which apparently has not yet been published. The radicals are not forgotten, the halting expedient for an alphabet in a non-alphabetical language, and without a knowledge of which the scholar is unable to make use of a Chinese-English dictionary when he does not know the pronunciation of the word he is in search of.

To one, even, who does not wish to learn the language, the book, in a number of its pages, conveys in a succinct form much information about both the spoken and written language, of the genesis of the latter, and how the creole language of the primitive Chinese was exercised in language-making.

With our knowledge of the superiority of an alphabetic form of speech, it is amusing to read as regards the written language:—"To many thoughtful Chinese it is a matter of surprise that this script has not been adopted as a common medium of communication throughout the world. They say:—'Why multiply scripts and invent complicated systems when you have ready to hand a language, so free from grammatical intricacies, and so simple that has stood the test of ages and in which it has been found that no changes were necessary or desirable?'"

Sir Walter puts down the difficulties in the acquisition of the language, tones, pronunciation, prefixes and suffixes, and the amplification of the written language when speaking, so that though the former is monosyllabic, it is not far wrong to describe the latter as syllabic. Some foreign Mandarin speakers make light of the tones, but the Chinese are wise in saying, "they are most assuredly wrong."

Another difficulty called attention to is the redundancy of metaphor and allusion in the written language. The book is an up-to-date one, as the Author is apparently well aware of the tendency to burst the trammels of the archaic forms of the book language in use for many centuries and to find a fresh vigour in a simpler style of composition and expression, in which movement and brevity and progressive newspapers are taking such a prominent lead. The vogue of the pedantic, cumbersome, highly ornate style of the past is going with all its picturesque, and modern requirements are being met by one more suited for present-day needs.

We are glad to see idiomatics more and more taking up the only right view of the so-called Chinese dialect is "so distinct as to constitute (eight) different languages, any two of which are quite as unlike as English and Dutch." Carver Douglas sustained this view boldly, and not to mention others, Parker and our Author subscribe to it.

We are also pleased to notice that a variant tone in Mandarin is called attention to, and a role laid down for its observance. Mandarin has not made such use of the ancillary aid of variant tones as, for example, has been notably done in the Swatow, Amoy, and Cantonese forms of speech; but that it is made use of is apparent; and eventually it may be discovered that not a language in China but is indebted to this aid for an extended use of words otherwise confined within the primary tones, though the

genius of each form of speech may employ them in different methods as is clearly exemplified in the wide difference of their general use in the Fokienese type of languages mentioned above and the Cantonese type with its numerous dialects, in all of which the lesser divisions of the language which have been studied they have been discovered.

We have no doubt that this book will prove very useful to the ever-increasing number of those who are beginning to turn their attention to the acquisition of Mandarin.

MUTINY OF TROOPS IN KIRIN.

The Government has received a telegram from H.E. Viceroy Hsi—his change of Manchuria reporting the mutiny of the troops of the Chihiang military force in Kirin province. This force consists of six battalions of infantry and cavalry, which are distributed in Central Manchuria for the suppression of the Hungtzu. As most of the soldiers, however, were formerly Hungtzu themselves, the remedy is worse than the disease. The corruption of the officers and uselessness of the troops have recently prompted H.E. Hsi to remove the commanding Brigadier-General Hu Tien-chia from his command and replace him by Major-General Liu Chung-liang. The scheme in view is gradually to disband the soldiers and substitute new recruits to be enlisted from the various districts in Kirin province. But this decision got wind among the Chihiang troops before the arrival of the new commander, and they accordingly decided to rebel. Upon the arrival of General Liu from Mukden, the troops went in a body to his quarters and demanded their arrears of pay, which they said the former Commander Hu had owed them for fully five months. They then looted and smashed everything in the Commander's quarters, carried off in reality to keep a sharp look-out upon the disaffected Chihiang troops, whom it is still hoped to disband gradually. General Hu will be court-martialed after the disbandment of his command, for he was accused by some of his subordinate officers of having instigated the mutiny. It is certainly curious that the mutiny was suppressed immediately after his re-appointment to the command.

Instructions have been issued by the War Office to Viceroy Hsi and Governor Chu of Kirin, and more troops to the scene of trouble in order to prevent the mutineers from joining the Hungtzu in the three provinces.—*N. C. D. News.*

THE MANCHURIAN VICEROY.

H.E. HSU SHIH-CHANG IMPRISONED.

The Peking correspondent of the *N. C. D. News* writes on the 7th inst. that H.E. the Viceroy Hsi Shih-chang of Manchuria has been imprisoned by Censor Yang Chieh-san on the ground of not showing a firm front to the Japanese in South Manchuria. At the same time the Expectant Taotai Tao Tachun, Director of the Chiao-chow or Foreign Intercourse Office at Mukden, has been charged by Mr. Yang with being a pro-Japanese official, who should be no longer entrusted with the work of negotiating important matters with the Japanese Consul-General at the Manchurian capital. A copy of the memorial has been sent to Viceroy Hsi for his perusal and answer.

Mr. Yang also charges Viceroy Hsi with having done no good for either Government or people since his appointment last May. It is said that his Excellency is not on good terms with his junior colleagues—Governors Tang Shao-yi, Chu Chia-pao and Cheng Teh-chuan—of Fengtien, Kirin and Heilungkiang respectively, because they are not satisfied with their limited and slender powers which make them more like subordinates. Viceroy Hsi exerts himself to centralise all the power and authority into his own hands.

The promised reforms in the provinces which were intended as a guide for other provinces in the Empire will probably end as so many others have done—on paper. H.E. Hsi still lingers at Mukden, though he has been urged by the Waiwups to proceed to North and Central Manchuria on the tour of inspection which was to show the Russian Government that China is paying equal attention to affairs in those two provinces which are still under her influence.

It is reported here that H.E. Hsi has obtained Imperial permission to borrow Tael 40,000,000 from the Russians under the nominal cover of the Belgians as was done in the case of the Peking-Hankow trunk line for the improvement of the administration in the three provinces.

His Excellency has wired to the Chinese Foreign Office here for the services of office officials to accompany him to Russia and Japan to work under him. This is obviously necessary in view of the increased intercourse with the two countries in Manchuria.

A NOTORIOUS CHARACTER.

HIS CAREER AS A CRIMINAL.

20th inst.

Wong Yau, a well known character, with five black marks against his name, each mark representing a previous conviction, became entangled with the law again on Sunday. Wong was banished from the Colony for five years on the 13th December, 1906. He returned to Hongkong last week and for a while lay low; not because he was afraid of the police, but because he was well known on four occasions been convicted of returning from banishment, but because there were certain "things" being scolded, Wong started out yesterday afternoon for a walk. While strolling carelessly past shop No. 51, Bonham Street East he caught sight of a bundle lying on the counter. He lounged outside for a while, and when the last customer had departed Wong entered the establishment and "picked up" the bundle and started off. This cool piece of impudence would perhaps have worked well had the bundle belonged to a customer. As it belonged to the master of the shop, who saw Wong walking away with his property, a chase followed and the thief was collared.

Inspector Ritchie arraigned him before Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, yesterday morning, in the Police Court, on two indictments. Wong admitted both very gracefully with a bow of the head. On the charge of theft, he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and six hours' stocks. For returning from banishment he received a further term of one year's hard labour.

A QUESTION OF COMPENSATION.

ENGINEERS' INSTITUTE SUED.

An interesting case was heard in the Summary Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, last Tuesday, before His Honour Mr. A. G. Wise, P. J., in which Mr. C. J. Tyndale, Lee sued the Institute of Engineers plaintiff for builders of Hongkong for \$15, being compensation for room rent for thirteen months.

Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow, appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. A. C. Holbrow, Messrs. Bacon, Looker and Deacon, for the defendants.

Mr. Lee stated that he had lived at Moreton Terrace, since 1905. In April, 1906, he entered into an agreement with the defendants to act as the secretary and manager for \$150 per month and a free unfurnished room. He gave notice to the Land Investment Company that he intended to vacate Moreton Terrace house at the end of May and made preparations for the removal of his furniture. On the first of May he took up his duties at the Institute, but as Mr. Lennox, the retiring secretary, had not moved his property from the room at the Institute, plaintiff could not move in. On the following day it rained in torrents and again plaintiff was delayed and on 3rd May a Committee meeting was held at the Institute when the question of providing a card room for members was raised. The upshot of the discussion was that plaintiff's room was utilised as a card room, with plaintiff's consent, subject to compensation being paid for the loss of the room. Some months later plaintiff saw Mr. Crake, in his capacity as President of the Institute, and asked him whether it was not the question of compensation was settled. Plaintiff suggested that \$50 per month would be fair compensation, but Mr. Crake thought \$35 per month could be added to plaintiff's salary from the beginning of his agreement and that later on if circumstances warranted it another \$15 might be added, making the salary \$100 per month. Plaintiff thought the arrangement a fair one, but he had not received anything. In answer to Mr. Holbrow, plaintiff said that he had to occupy a room on the premises, there was no mention of the discussion regarding the card room on the minutes.

Mr. Holbrow—Why is that?

Plaintiff—Well, I don't put down everything that takes place at the meeting. Some were in favour of it, some were against, and they talked and squabbled about it for I don't know how long. I don't take part in the discussions; I did speak once and was told to shut up, and I have religiously done so ever since. I could give them advice on many things, but I don't. They talked so much about it that I got tired of the whole thing. I did not want the room and when they told me I was not to have it I was very pleased; I had my own house.

Did you say to Mr. Crake that the room was of no use to you?—No, I did not. What I said was "I am quite willing to give it up if you pay me the equivalent of it."

Did the Institute ever refuse to give you a room?—No. The room was there, but they took it away.

With your consent?—Yes, with my consent, subject to compensation, remuneration, or whatever else you like to call it. \$150 per month is not much for a man to live on when he has to pay rent.

You have a private income?—Never mind what I have privately; it does not matter a straw to you or anyone else.

Did you ever ask the Chairman at a meeting for compensation?—Yes. But I was always told "Hush! Hush! Don't say anything about it just now." The Institute was always in an extraordinary financial state.

You assisted that financial position?—No! My accounts were all up to a cent.

Did you ever pay Messrs. Lowe and Bingham's clerks extra money?—No. I asked for a little assistance in summarising and dictating and was told that if I wanted to be trained as an accountant I would have to pay for it. I told them I was not paid for that. I rely on one in the world to find a red cent wrong with my accounts.

Mr. J. D. Morrison, who was on the management committee of the Institute in May last year, stated he was at the meeting which decided to utilise the secretary's room as a card room, but denied ever having expressed his surprise that Mr. Lee was not to be paid compensation.

That closed the plaintiff's case and Mr. Holbrow submitted that plaintiff had failed to establish his case.

The P. J. Judge—I think you should call one of your committee at any rate. I do not want to non-suit him at once.

Mr. W. A. Crake, President of the Institute, was called. In 1906 he was chairman of the management committee and corroborated the agreement between the parties. When it was suggested that a card room be added to the Institute plaintiff said he did not want the room, but he did not apply officially for compensation until he was about to leave. He had spoken to witness personally.

Mr. Holbrow—Was he ever promised compensation by the management committee?—No.

Had Mr. Lee wanted it he could have had the room?—Yes, at any time he could have had it.

By Mr. Goldring—Did you say that if Mr. Lee had not brought this action he would have got compensation? Was it not the intention of the committee to give him compensation?—With this reservation, I said that if he conducted himself properly as manager he would get compensation. At one time it was contemplated to give him compensation.

By the management committee?—No. By some of the members personally.

By Mr. Holbrow—What were the conditions?—First, if the Institute could afford it, and second, if he gave satisfaction. When it came before the committee it was unanimously decided not to give him anything.

By the Court—That was after he left?—Yes.

Mr. T. Skinner, chairman of the management committee, said that he was at the meeting in May, after which Mr. Lee stated that he was pleased that he was to remain in his own quarters, as it would suit him better. Nothing was said about compensation.

To Mr. Goldring—The question of compensation was not raised as far as witness was aware until plaintiff was about to leave and the committee decided not to give him anything.

The P. J. Judge said there was no doubt that plaintiff intended to take possession of his room at the outset, the only question being whether he relinquished the room with or without compensation. The point was never officially raised until plaintiff was about to leave, and in his opinion plaintiff had waived his right to compensation. Judgment was given for the defendants with costs.

THE "KNIGHT-COMMANDER."

On the 10th ult. Major Austruther-Gray asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is the intention of the Government to abandon the claims against the Russian Government for the sinking of the British ship *Knights Commander*. Sir E. Grey: The answer is in the negative.

WUCHOW NOTES.

CHANGES.

Wuchow, 19th August, 1907.
Mr. S. M. Russell, Acting Commissioner of Customs at Wuchow, has retired from the Customs service and leaves to-morrow by a *Siam* en route for England. Mr. Russell has only been a few months in Wuchow, but during that time he has made himself very popular with the Chinese of the community, both Foreign and Chinese.

Mr. Russell joined the Customs service in 1879 and has had a distinguished career. In 1893 he received from the Chinese Government the order of the civil rank of the fourth class, and exactly ten years after got the British war medal and clasp "Defence of Legations," at Peking. Mr. Russell leaves Wuchow with the hearty good wishes from his numerous friends that he will enjoy the rest that he has so deservedly earned.

Mr. P. Kremer succeeded Mr. Russell as Acting Commissioner of Customs, ad interim. Mr. Von Dewall from the Canton Customs is transferred to this post as an assistant.

NAVAL.

The German gunboat *Zingst* has surprised everybody by succeeding in getting back to Wuchow yesterday afternoon from Nanjing. The *Zingst* took advantage of the slight rise in the River to get down as far as the Grand Rapids. There she waited for another rise and managed to negotiate the rapid successfully. Another delay took place at Kwei Hsiao, but the water was just high enough to enable the *Zingst* to get through and from there to Wuchow she had an uneventful passage. The *Zingst* left for Canton at daylight this morning.

NEW VICEROY.

The news of the appointment of H.E. Chang Yen-chun as Viceroy of the two Kiangs has been received by the local Chinese with manifest pleasure. The new Viceroy has a very good record as the Chinese say, and they are looking forward to have a few necessary reforms accomplished locally. For some considerable time past many of the leading Chinese newspapers have been under the late Viceroy's ban and their circulation in Kwangsi province prohibited. This the people consider an injustice as they were kept in ignorance of current events. Since the appointment of the new Viceroy this prohibition has been removed and the people hail this as a good omen and are related thereat.

TRADE.

The trade of Wuchow seems to be improving. The Customs returns show a decided increase of revenue for the last quarter as compared with the corresponding quarter in 1906. A very marked increase in the importation of cotton yarn and raw cotton is noticeable, and the exports of raw silk, silk waste, camph

THE YARN CRISIS.

A DEALER'S FAILURE.

In the Bankruptcy Jurisdiction Court on the 22nd inst. before His Honour the Chief Justice, the adjourned application re Fan Yau Shan was heard.

The Official Receiver said he had finished. Mr. Looker, representing a number of creditors, said that when the debtor was last before the Court the case was adjourned in order that he might supply certain information from his books which the creditors desired. To a certain extent that had been done, but apparently he had not paid close attention to the questions as the answers did not altogether give the information that was desired.

Mr. Looker to the debtor—Was the statement which your solicitors furnished as to the course of your business made out by you or with your knowledge?—The accountant made it out.

Is it a correct statement?—It is a true statement.

The yarn which you purchased from the yarn importers you bought for the purpose of re-selling to country dealers?—Sometimes my customers told me to make a purchase.

Attend to the questions.—It was generally when my customers told me to buy.

You bought it to re-sell?—I want to know if you did not buy this yarn for the purpose of re-selling to Chinese dealers?—Yes.

And unless these country customers paid for the yarn you could not yourself pay for it?—That is so.

Was there a demand among the country customers for a certain quantity of yarn?—They required some every year.

In anticipation of these requirements you used to enter into large contracts with importers for the purchase of yarn?—No. When the customers told me to buy I bought.

You only entered into contracts when the customers requested you to buy?—As a rule I bought very little without my customers requesting me to buy.

Your customers didn't give you orders for any particular amount?—They simply told me to buy a good deal because they wanted it.

They told me to be ready as they wished to buy.

They did not state quantities?—Approximately they did.

What did they say?—The customer would say approximately the amount they wanted to purchase, say 500 bales.

And you would buy 500 bales?—Yes.

They used to take delivery in small quantities, of three or four bales at a time?—Sometimes more, sometimes less. I could not say exactly.

You can say perfectly well?—They took little by little.

And as a customer came and wanted his few bales of yarn you went and got it from the people you bought it from?—Yes.

You did not take delivery of it until the customer came along and asked for a few bales?—Yes.

In the beginning of January 1906 the price of yarn fell?—The price went down as far as I remember in the first and second month of last year.

It continued to go down?—There was a small fall.

On the 24th of January you had still to take delivery of and pay for 41,537 bales?—That is right.

Of that amount 23,444 bales had not been resold?—The customers said they required it.

Will you answer the question, please?—Yes. Question repeated. The customers had told me to buy for them.

Will you tell me whether that amount had been resold?—It had not been resold.

Between the 24th of January and 15th May the price of yarn fell considerably?—Only a dollar or so.

Had it not fallen from \$10 to \$15 by the 15th May?—I don't consider it fell so much.

Come now. You were one of the largest yarn dealers and must have known the state of the market. Did not the market prices fall in the time mentioned from \$10 to \$15?—Not on the sales that I made to customers.

Was the price at which you could buy yarn on the 15th May the same as on the 25th January?—It had fallen two or three dollars.

After further questions put with a view to show that the decline of the market was greater than admitted by the debtor.

The Chief Justice asked—How much did you expect to lose?—The staff you did not take delivery of—\$30 or \$15,000.

Mr. Looker then applied for, and was supported in his application by Mr. H. C. Bailey, the detention of the debtor, but after some discussion the matter was allowed to stand over for one week.

THE NAVAL YARD FIRE.

ASSISTANCE BY THE TROOPS.

COMMODORE'S APPRECIATION.

In the General Orders by the Officer Commanding the Troops last Tuesday, the following letter received from the Commodore is published for information:—

"I have the honour to thank you for the assistance rendered by the troops under your command in a fire which occurred in the Naval Yard this forenoon and to request that you will convey to the officers and men present at the fire, my appreciation of their valuable assistance."

VOLUNTEER CORPS ORDERS.

RECRUITS' PARADES.

At headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, the 26th August, for infantry drill. Sergt. Downes, 3rd Middlesex Regt., will attend.

At headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 28th August, for 15-pounder B.L. gun drill. Sergt. Windsor, R.G.A., will attend.

N.C.O.'S PARADE.

At headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 28th August, for instructional drill. Sergt. White, R.G.A., will attend.

PROMOTION.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Surgeon-Lieutenant Charles Plessey to be Surgeon-Captain in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps with effect from the 9th August, 1907.

LEAVE.

Gunner J. A. Young is granted leave of absence out of the Colony until the end of September with effect from the 15th August, 1907.

JOINED.

Mr. A. B. Blunt joined the Corps on the 16th August, 1907, assigned Corps No. 977 and posted to the Right Half No. 1 Company.

Mr. A. R. Plorford joined the Corps on the 16th August, 1907, assigned Corps No. 978 and posted to the Right Half No. 1 Company.

Mr. A. H. Young joined the Corps on the 16th August, 1907, assigned Corps No. 979 and posted to the Right Half No. 1 Company.

RESIGNED.

Trooper E. Buxton Forman is permitted to resign on leaving the Colony with effect from the 16th August, 1907.

HX-VICEROY SHUM.

AN APPRECIATION.

Writing from Hongkong on the 14th June last, the correspondent of the *Indo-European*, *Commercial Intelligence and Trade Register* says:—

"What conduces to the belief that South China is on the high road to renewed prosperity, is the fact that Tsen Shun-huan, the Viceroys office of the Liang Kwang, is an amusing and occasionally irritating to read the stories that are sent abroad about Shum. He is spoken of as a reactionary, an anti-reformer, a hater of foreign ideas and methods, an upholder of 'old custom' and all the rest of it, whereas Viceroys Shum is, he has proved time and again, a radical believer in Western civilisation. It is ideal to reform China from within, by the motto is 'China for the Chinese and by the Chinese,' and if he can stem the tide of foreign intervention, he will use his utmost influence to accomplish his object at all hazards. But Shum is not in any sense of the word a reactionary. He has fostered education in Canton, he believes in an army formed and based on European models, and armed with weapons of the latest design, he is on the question of discipline, he would sooner decapitate a drunken soldier than harm a miserable robber—he has done everything in his power to encourage the development of railways, he has given his official approval to the Canton Works Scheme, the improvement and deepening of the Canton River, the construction of the bund, and he is the prime mover in the scheme which is still in the pre-protoplasmic stage, to reconstitute the port of Whampoa and make it the port of Canton, its ultimate object being, of course, to divert the trade of the Canton to the port of Whampoa. None of these things is exactly calculated to make Shum popular with the foreigner who is eternally on the make and views everything from a purely selfish standpoint, but they do not detract from Shum's popularity among his own people. The first evidence of his return to power will probably be found in the starting of operations, in connection with the Canton-Hankow Railway which will eventually bring Canton into direct communication with Peking. The Company which was created by the Chinese to build the railway has spent its time in end-to-end bickering about procedure on the Board of Directors. The money of the shareholders—contributed by the gentry, the merchant guilds, the charitable institutions and even the very colonies—is locked up in the native banks, because the shareholders cannot agree upon the composition of the Board of Management. A meeting of delegates and shareholders was held on 12th June in order to elect a Board of responsible Directors of the track without further delay, but possibly owing to the fact that Viceroys Shum has been reappointed to Canton, that meeting was postponed until after His Excellency had settled down. When the meeting does take place there need be no question that the railway will start forthwith, here is never any lack of money where Shum is, and the circulation of ready cash must necessarily affect the Hongkong market."

CHINA RAILWAY CONTRACTS.

On the 15th ult. Mr. Rees asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he was in a position to state the result of negotiations with the Government of China relative to their obligations to British subjects in respect of railway contracts.

Mr. Runciman, who replied, said:—Final contracts have been concluded in the case of the railway concessions—viz. those from Shanghai to Nan-ting and from Canton to the boundary of Hongkong; and the work of construction is proceeding on the former railway. As regards the remaining British railway concessions, negotiations are still proceeding; and though progress is slow, His Majesty's Government cannot anticipate that the Chinese Government will fail in the end to respect the obligations which they have incurred in regard to them.

PROPERTY SALE.

Acting under instructions from Messrs. Johnson, Messrs. and Master, Mr. Geo. P. Lammett, auctioneer, offered for sale at his auction premises in Duddell Street certain valuable household properties, pertaining to the estate of the late Mr. Edmund Sharp.

The properties were put in six lots as follows: A piece of ground registered in the Land Office as Section B of Inland Lot No. 679 containing an area of 4,590 square feet and bearing an annual Crown rent of \$18 4 to enter with the substantial houses erected thereon and numbered consecutively from 7 to 11, Fuk Luk Lane. Lot two was Section C of Inland Lot No. 679, containing 3,876 square feet, with an annual Crown rent of \$24 30, together with the houses erected thereon and known as Nos. 1 to 6, Fuk Luk Lane. The third lot consisted of Section D of Inland Lot No. 679, containing an area of 5,396 square feet and bearing an annual Crown rent of \$33 8, together with the houses numbered by even numbers from 1 to 14, Third Street. Lot 4 comprised the remaining portion of Inland Lot No. 679, with an area of 5,601, and a Crown rent of \$35 68, together with the houses running by even numbers from 116 to 130, Third Street. Lot 5 consisted of Section C of Inland Lot No. 747, area 6,101, and Crown rent \$49 65, and the houses thereon numbered from 106 to 114, Third Street. Lot 6, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 7, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 8, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 9, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 10, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 11, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 12, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 13, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 14, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 15, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 16, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 17, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 18, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 19, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 20, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 21, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 22, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. Lot 23, by odd numbers, to 127, Third Street. 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CORRESPONDENCE

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.)

THE NAVY LEAGUE.

To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph":
Sir,—As the case of the "Executive Committee of the Navy League in the recent controversy has been so greatly misrepresented, I ask permission to put it before you on their behalf.

The main charge made against them at the meeting on the 19th inst. was that they had refused to initiate and carry on a public agitation upon the various matters named in the resolution of censure, and in declaring that the work of the League should be mainly educational.

The constitution is now embodied in paragraphs (a) to (d) of Article 3 of the Memorandum of Association of the League, which is now an incorporated body. They run as follows:—

- To secure as the primary object of the national policy "The Command of the Sea."
- To spread information showing the vital importance to the British Empire of the maintenance of naval supremacy, upon which depends its trade, empire, and national existence.
- To call attention to the enormous demands which war would make upon the Navy, and to such measures as may be requisite to secure adequate preparation for the maritime defence of the Empire.
- To urge these matters on public men, and in particular upon candidates for Parliament.

From their sequence it is clear that education and agitation is to be the primary work of the League.

Taking paragraphs (a) and (b), the Committee believe that command of the sea is now the first object of national policy. At the same time they consider that to secure its continued maintenance as such it is essential, in view of the continuing increase in the direct representation of the wage-earning classes in Parliament, that the League's educational work should be continued and developed with all the energy and persistence they can command. This educational work, it should be observed, consists in addresses on the doctrine of Sea Power and its vital importance to Great Britain and the Empire, given by Lieutenant Knox and other speakers at meetings, not only of boys and girls, but of grown men and women. Its value has been acknowledged by Lord Charles Beresford among others. "This Empire," he says, "is mainly created, and is only maintained by the power of the British Fleet, and the Navy League would have fully justified its existence if it had never done any other work than to bring this fact home to the youth of our public schools."

On paragraph (c) the Committee hold that as the fleet, in the opinion of such high authorities as Admiral the Hon. Sir Edmund Fremantle and Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, up to the level of the two-power standard, which margin, they are not required to take any action in this respect at the present juncture; and they are further fortified in this view by the following statement of Sir Cyprian Bridge, which appeared in the *Standard* on the 17th instant: "In my opinion, an opinion formed after the best inquiry a person in my position can make, I am satisfied that the naval power of our country has not been in any way diminished by any reduction of expenditure since the present Government came into office."

With regard to paragraphs (c) and (d) it has been and will continue to be the Committee's practice to discharge their duties under it by letters to the Press and questions in Parliament, and by pressing these various matters on public men and upon candidates for Parliament.

The real divergence between the two parties to the controversy may be summed up as follows:—

The Committee hold that their main, or day-to-day, work must be educational, and that they should confine their public platform agitation, as a general rule, to the two great questions of the maintenance of the Fleet at the two-power standard with a margin, and the organisation of the First Line Fleet for instant service. If, however, these two principles are maintained, it is their view that they should take immediate steps to rouse the country to a sense of its danger. Their opponents hold, on the contrary, that the educational work of the League should be subsidiary, and that its primary duty is to conduct public agitations not only upon these two questions, but upon the others mentioned in the resolution of censure, questions which are not matters of principle, but, however important they may individually be, of controversial detail.

In conclusion, while the Committee would deeply regret the withdrawal of any members from the League, and the formation of a rival association, they are convinced that its position will be much strengthened by the increased support it will receive from the great body of moderate people who approve their refusal to allow it to be made a mere instrument of agitation, and their determination to continue and extend its invaluable educational work.

Your obedient servant,
ROBERT YERBURGH,
President, Navy League.

The Navy League,
13 Victoria Street, S.W.,
July 25, 1937.

A TRICKY PRISONER.

The *N.C.D.* News of 19th inst. says:—A young foreigner named John Machado escaped from the British Consular Gaol early yesterday morning in a manner which was somewhat amusing. It appears that Machado was arrested on Friday, the 19th inst., on a charge of having stolen a gold ring. Owing to pressure of business the Port Constable, C. Constable, only gave the accused a hearing on the following Monday, when he was formally committed for trial, but it was decided to investigate some additional reports which had been made to the police concerning the prisoner, and with the object of proving if the prisoner were identical with a person alleged to have been guilty of sharp practice upon a Japanese stockbroker of Hongkong, Machado was taken to the shop. While the detective was entering a note in his book, the prisoner slipped through a side door and escaped. Next morning he was rearrested and subsequently was transferred to the British Consular Gaol. About 7.30 a.m. yesterday a wanderer visited Machado in the cell and evidently took advantage of the opportunity presented, and jumping outside, shut the door and made a prisoner of the guard. It happened as the prisoner no doubt knew, that the wall of the gaol is being repaired and a portion of the new wall is not quite filled in. No watchman was on duty at the danger spot, however, so the prisoner crawled through the opening and went quietly home, where he changed his clothes, wore the prison garments into threads and related to his brother the story of his escape. The fugitive then left his home and the efforts of the police yesterday and till a late hour last night to recapture the runaway were ineffectual.

KOWLOON LAND RESUMPTION.

CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

CASE SUBMITTED TO ARBITRATION.

An Arbitration Board set in the Supreme Court on the 22nd inst., to determine the amount of compensation to be paid in respect of the resumption of eleven lots and portion of another at Kowloon, near the old boundary and close to the road between Kowloon City and Tsimshatsui. The Board consisted of His Honour Mr. A. G. W. Wilson, Judge, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., Director of Public Works, and Mr. W. Danby, M.I.C.E.

The claimant, Mr. J. C. Wong, was represented by Mr. G. K. Hall, Barrister. Mr. A. G. W. Wilson, Judge, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., Director of Public Works, and Mr. W. Danby, M.I.C.E.

Mr. Brutton said that the land was bought by Mr. Wong in 1901 and 1902, and as the Government required some of the lots for the construction of a new road negotiations were entered into between the parties in September, 1905. On January 31, 1906, Mr. Wong proposed that the question of compensation be submitted to arbitration, but that the offer was not accepted. In the plan which was provided by the Crown, three lots appeared which were not included in the present, arbitration, but claimant had a yearly lease of them and was entitled to compensation.

Mr. Brutton thought they should be considered by the board. Mr. Morrell objected, and the Hon. Mr. Chatham pointed out that in any case the compensation would not be on the same basis. Mr. Brutton then continued his opening. Throughout the negotiations, he said, Mr. Wong made several offers to the Government for the surrender of his land, but all were refused. It was admitted that the claimant's title was a good one, therefore it was unnecessary to prove it. In an interview with the Colonial Secretary the claimant offered to give up his land for similar land in the vicinity, but the offer was refused and then the claimant offered to buy land in the vicinity from the Government at one cent per square foot, the price the Government were offering for claimant's property. The reply was that the Government was not prepared to sell land in that vicinity for agricultural purposes. An application for the land for building purposes at the same price met with a similar refusal; the Government declined to discuss their policy. Mr. Brutton submitted that if the land was only worth one cent per foot to the Government, or rather if they were only willing to allow that price, that claimant should be sold similar land by the Government at the same price, or in exchange for his own land. But the Government had been selling land in that neighbourhood at five and six cents per foot and private sales had realised eight, nine, ten and even fifteen cents per foot. Mr. Brutton mentioned that for the purpose of showing how unreasonable the Government's offer was.

The Government's offer of one cent per foot was subsequently increased to two cents per foot, £25, and claimant refused to accept, but reduced his original claim of fifteen cents per foot to ten cents, together with a claim for the stone wall put up by claimant. The compensation to be paid by the Government was: First, the value of the land; then the Board had to take into consideration the disturbance caused by the compulsory sale of the land; then there was the depreciation of the remaining lots, want of water, and loss of frontage. The Government had taken all the land bordering on the road and left no approach to the remaining lots, and had also taken three lots which apparently were not required for the road at all. The claimant's claim was as follows:—Land resumed, 20,317 square feet at nine cents per square foot, \$1,828.53; compensation for stone wall, 2,520 cubic feet at 8 cents per cubic foot, \$201.60; depreciation on remaining lots, 12,687 square feet at five cents, \$634.35; rent from April 16th to August 22nd, being 129 days at \$140 per year, \$40,461; other compensation, \$68.21; total \$1,050.35.

Mr. Wong stated in evidence that he had an offer for the land at 18 cents per square foot and accepted it, the sale to be completed on the intended purchaser's return from China. This man had returned, but finding the Government was about to resume the property he declined to complete the sale. In answer to Mr. Morrell claimant stated he had no contract for the sale.

(Continuing.)

CHINESE CIGARETTE FACTORIES.

An extensive bean-oil manufacturer of New-chang, a few months ago established, at a cost of \$3,000, a modern cigarette factory. Two cigarette machines of Japanese manufacture were installed, and although the present output is but 100,000, these machines are capable of turning out 1,000,000 cigarettes daily. Two more machines, at an additional cost of \$17,000, will soon be set up and double the present output is figured on. When the factory was first put into operation the entire working force consisted of Chinese. For a time the business was at a loss, and the owner being suspicious of the head Chinese overseers, discharged them and substituted Japanese instead. Since then the business has been run at a fair profit. Four styles of cigarettes are manufactured, and these are known as the Tower, Gold Dragon, Goldfish and Two Butterflies brands, which sell, respectively, at 88, 85, 66 and 44 cents per box. The Tower containing 40's, the others 50's in a box.

The cartoons are lithographed in colours and are made in Japan. The wording is mostly in English, the reverse side of the package having a few Chinese characters. The factory is known as the To Fang Cigarette Company. The tobacco used in the three better varieties is American leaf purchased from Chinese importers in the south of China. The Japanese overseer informs me that all the American tobacco used was a North Carolina leaf. The cheapest grade of cigarette in this factory is the Two Butterflies variety, and the tobacco used is a mixture of Chinese and American leaf.

It may be that the owner is one of the most wealthy Chinese merchants in the province, and having a large capital at his command, it is possible that he may become a prominent factor in the cigarette industry of Manchuria. The To Fang factory employs about eight workmen, the majority of whom are boys. The wages range from \$1 to \$1.65 per month for the boys and from \$3.00 to \$5.50 per month for the more experienced workmen. These wages include their food, which consists of two meals per day. A boy, on commencing work, receives \$1 per month, after three weeks he receives an increase, and at the expiration of three months, if proficient, he receives the limit of \$5 per month. The men

receive \$5.00 at the start, and this sum is gradually increased to the limit of \$5.50. The factory is conducted in a well-regulated manner and the surroundings are surprisingly clean. The cutting, drying, and cooling machines are modern and are also of Japanese manufacture. The entire success of the plant is attributed to the Japanese overseers, who are most energetic workers and thoroughly understand the Chinese workmen and their methods. The Japanese are experts in the cigarette business, having spent some years in the service of the Government cigarette monopoly in Japan—Consular Report.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO CO.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The forty-ninth half-yearly meeting of the British North Borneo Company was held at 24th ult., at the offices, Threadneedle-street, E.C.3, Sir Charles J. Jessel (chairman of the company) presiding. The secretary (Mr. H. G. Forbes) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said he thought that they might fairly congratulate themselves on the progress they were making. In 1905 the gross receipts were £115,000, or £15,115 more than they were in 1904. Their total receipts amounted to £1,420,262, or £27,038 more than they were in 1905. This increase was almost entirely owing to land sales, which although a valuable source of revenue, were liable to extreme fluctuations. The land sales in 1905 were represented by the comparatively small sum of £3,413, but for the current year the company had so far sold 8,000 acres, the revenue from which would directly benefit them by about £18,000. Indirectly they were of the utmost importance to them, as each sale was a factor by which the revenue became permanently increased. The land was sold for development and not to people who would "hold it up" for speculative purposes. If the prospects of their rubber companies were extremely promising, the actual results of the operations of their tobacco companies were most encouraging. Just beyond the interior terminus of the railway there was a considerable area of land suitable for the cultivation of tobacco and rubber. For this land they were asking £3 per acre. Although this price was higher than they had yet received for land, it could not be looked upon as excessive if one considered the handsome profit each acre of good land was capable of earning. But it was not so much the price which the directors considered as the indirect benefit annually derived by the company from the employment of labour on the development of their alienated land. The superintendent of their

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HONGKONG WATER POLO.

SHIELD COMPETITION.

FIFTH ROUND.

This match was played last Friday afternoon at the V.R.C. enclosure. It proved to be a very interesting one, as both teams were well matched and afforded a great deal of excitement amongst the spectators. Before the game started, some of the members of both teams wanted to have a practice on when the match commenced they were fagged out, and those that were fresh did practically all the scoring. In the first half the "A" team scored the first two goals, but their opponents were not long in equalising matters.

Soon after play recommenced in the second half both teams were not long in adding two goals each to their credit and it looked as if the game would end in a draw; but on account of the men not marking each other as they ought to have done, the "A" team scored the third and winning goal (viz. the fifth) and thus the game ended in a win for the "A" team by 3 goals to 2. The Teams were:—Middlesex "A"—Roberts, Miles, Remond, Rolfe, Gee, Goode and Linham. Middlesex "B"—Rivdale, Warley, Reed, Worster, Ressel, Perkins and Newman.

The fixtures in the sixth round are as follows:—On Wednesday, the 24th inst., R.E. "A" team vs. Middlesex "B" and on Friday, 25th inst., R.H.K.Y.C. vs. V.R.C. "A" team.

COMPETITION TABLE.				
Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points.
V.R.C. "A".....	5	4	0	13
R. H. K. Y. C.....	4	0	1	13
87th Co. R.G.A.....	4	3	0	12
Corinthian Y.C.....	4	3	0	9
R. E. "A".....	4	1	3	6
R. E. "B".....	4	1	3	3
Middlesex "A".....	4	1	3	3
Middlesex "B".....	4	0	4	0

FOURTH ROUND.

CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB vs. 87TH CO. R.G.A.

This match, the last in the round, and which had to be postponed, was played last Saturday afternoon at the V.R.C. before another large assembly of civilian and military spectators, and proved to be very interesting; since as if the R.G.A.'s defeated

the acceptance of H.E.'s resignation, left here for the North. They number about forty or fifty.

ANTI-OPIMUM CRUSADE.

At yesterday's meeting of the Canton Central Anti-Opium Association, Mr. Chan Wai-pu was elected to the chair and the following resolutions were adopted:—That the best method for the preparation of anti-opium pills should be communicated to all the branch Associations. That certain ways of preparing Anti-opium pills and wine be adopted and the methods of preparation forwarded to the branch Associations. That a letter of thanks be forwarded by the Association to all those who have so generously distributed anti-opium pills or wine free of charge. That early steps be taken to raise subscriptions for the opening of an industrial institution.

CHEAP OPIMUM ANTIDOTES.

The society formed by all the anti-opium pill and wine compounders have decided, besides free distribution of their medicine at Canton, to distribute a quantity throughout the inland districts and to sell anti-opium medicine to district charitable institutions at reduced rates.

PRISONERS' AID SOCIETY.

The Industrial Institution in connection with the Police Department for the benefit of prisoners is found not to be sufficiently spacious owing to the number of prisoners having increased lately. The site of the old mazarine for storing gunpowder at Kowloon Hills has now been selected and work has commenced on the 11th instant with the erection of a building there for the purpose of moving some of the members of the institution to this building.

HELD TO RANSOM.

With reference to the robbery, committed some time ago in the Pak Ya Village in the district of Namhoi in which two men were kidnapped, \$300,000 are now demanded by the robbers for their release. A few days ago, one of the men kidnapped escaped from the robbers' and returned home safely, but the whereabouts of the other man is at present unknown.

ROBBERY.

The case of robbery committed in the Tai-Lik Market, in the district of Namhoi on the 14th instant, has been already reported by me. Now the owners of the shops robbed have given particulars of the case to the Authorities stating that some three hundred robbers attacked the shops and inflicted serious wounds on two of the folk with the butts of their rifles. From five of the shops over eight thousand taels of yoo and cash and other valuables have been carried away. In consideration of the seriousness of the case, the Namhoi Magistrate and the Kwangchow Prefect have personally proceeded to the scene of the outrage to make investigations.

ADMIRAL CHUN.

A telegram has been received from Shanghai stating that the new Admiral designate of the province of Kwangtung, Chun Ping-chik, has left that port on the 18th instant on the S.S. *Kwanglo* for the South to take up his new appointment.

20th August.

RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

The amount of fare collected on the Wong-sha-Kong section of the Canton-Hankow Railway Company for the past ten days were as follows:—9th instant \$180.55; 10th instant \$140.80; 11th instant \$141.35; 12th instant \$175.35; 13th instant \$161.75; 14th instant \$137.20; 15th instant \$183.75; 16th instant \$158.80; 17th instant \$189.10; 18th instant \$180.50.

ANTI-OPIMUM MOVEMENT.

The branch anti-opium association in the district of Heungshan was opened on the 19th instant in presence of a large assembly. There were present representatives of the Canton Central Anti-Opium Association and other anti-opium societies. After many speeches, the proceedings closed with a tea party.

The opium divans in the Kwei Shin District were all closed by the Magistrate of that district on the 1st day of the 7th moon.

Yesterday two men presented counterfeit licences to the Central Anti-Opium Association when applying for anti-opium medicine and were at once arrested and taken to the Police Station. They were put in stocks and will be exhibited at the headquarters of the Anti-Opium Association for three days.

WHOLESALE EXECUTION.

The Kwangchow Brigadier General in company with the Namhoi Magistrate who proceeded to the scene of the recent robbery at Tai Lik market, also proceeded to the Kong Po camp and in their presence, thirty-eight prisoners were beheaded for having taken part in different offences.

NICE SALES.

The quantity of cheap rice sold to the different districts for the past few days was as follows:—6th instant 30,000 catties; 7th instant 55,000 catties; 8th instant 29,000 catties; 9th instant 46,000 catties. The amounts realized from the disposal of cheap rice in the different districts for the 6th and 7th instant were as follows:—6th instant Eastern shed \$1,450; Western shed \$1,806; Wong-sha shed \$1,128; and Honam shed \$1,132. 7th instant Eastern shed \$1,536; Western shed \$1,545; Wong-sha shed \$1,125; and Honam shed \$1,079.

22nd August.

THE NEW VICEROY.

The Canton gentry, under the leadership of Mr. Ting Yun-chung, are making arrangements for a reception to be held on the arrival here of the newly-appointed Viceroy of the Liang Kwang, H. E. Chang Yun-chun.

The Canton-Hankow Railway Company has forwarded a telegram to Honan to His Excellency, congratulating him on his promotion to the substantive Viceroyalty of the Liang Kwang provinces, and expressing the hope that H. E. will proceed to the South at an early date to take up his post.

It is ascertained in official circles that H. E. Chang Yun-chun, the Viceroy designate, holds views much opposed to the public policy of ex-Viceroy Shum. The officials who are serving H. E. Shum are almost all young and energetic men, but H. E. Chang believes in the appointment of those officials who are of an advanced age, as he is of opinion that these aged officials will have had better experience in the Government service. Consequently all those officials who were H. E. Shum's subordinates, and who are still in office at Canton, have to resign their posts and leave the Southern Capital to seek appointments elsewhere.

FORESHORE ENCROACHMENT.

The magistrates of the districts of Namhoi and Panyu have been informed by the Bund Department to the effect that many private individuals have encroached on Government property along the river frontage, thus causing trouble in the building of the new bund. The magistrates have made a list of the names of all persons, numbering over a hundred, who have encroached on Government foreshore and have ordered them to remove at once from the land encroached upon in order to facilitate the building of the new bund.

ANTI-OPIMUM MOVEMENT.

On the 20th instant, several opium smokers were found smoking with only one licence in a shop in Yueung Hong Street. The owner of

the premises was arrested and after trial was found guilty of smoking without a licence and was fined \$12. On the same day a quantity of opium-smoking apparatus was discovered in a house which was formerly used as an opium divan, in the ward of Mau Chung, and the owner of the den was also arrested and fined twelve dollars. All the opium smoking implements were removed to the Central Anti-Opium Association, where they will be destroyed in due course.

The number of opium smokers who have been photographed and who have applied to the headquarters of the Central Association for opium pills yesterday reached the total of 4,400, and the number of opium smoking patients who have been admitted into the Hospital in connection with the Association now reaches 70 in all; of these five have already given up the drug and have been discharged from the institution.

The Acting Provincial Judge, Kung San Tsang, yesterday sent a weiyuan to the Central Anti-Opium Association for some subscription books to be sent abroad. The Association has furnished him with 100 of these books, and it is expected that a large sum of money will be collected through the Judge.

PUBLIC MARKETS.

The Canton Authorities have long contemplated the building of public markets in different streets throughout the City in the most populous centres so as to totally enforce the regulations prohibiting the vendors from selling their wares in the public thoroughfares to the inconvenience and obstruction of the general community; but so far no definite steps seem to have been taken in regard to the matter. Now it is learnt that the Canton Tatar General has actually put up temporary markets—structures of bamboo—in the Bannerman portion of the city and has rented out the stalls of these to the Bannerman traders at a very low rental.

THE NEW ADMIRAL.

The new Admiral of the province of Kwangtung, Chun Ping-chik, once held office as 1st lieutenant in the circuit of the prefectures of Yunchow and Linchow. It is reported that Admiral Chun's intention is to first of all take steps to suppress the bad characters in those quarters, when he arrives at Canton. It is stated that the bandits there may be effectually put down and everything settled by him in a most satisfactory manner, as he is well acquainted with the local conditions and the state of affairs of that circuit.

MATSHEDS PROHIBITED.

The Central Police Department has issued another proclamation prohibiting the erection of matsheds in any of the streets of the city at certain periods of the year when certain festivals are observed, which tend to increase fires and create other dangers. The shops of the upper and lower streets of the Sheung Mun Tai have promised that in future no celebrations of festivals of any kind will be carried on.

THE CENSUS.

The Police Department has appointed officials to take control of the taking of the census of the City of Canton which will soon be made, by orders from the central authorities at Peking.

ANTIMONY MINES.

The output from the antimony mines in the district of Kuei-Kong for the fifth moon is stated to be 100,120 catties, which is supposed to be very satisfactory.

TYPHOON WARNING.

The telegram quoted below was received from the Manila Observatory by the S.S. Consul last Sunday, August 18, 1907, 5:25 p.m.:—
"Noon—August 18, 1907. Typhoon neighbourhood North Ladrone Islands."

COMMERCIAL.

RAUB CRUISING.

A telegram from the mine reports a crushing of 5,720 tons of ore, yielding 930 ounces of smelted gold, a distinct improvement on last crushing.

YARN MARKET.

In their report dated 23rd August, Messrs. Phiorzalla & Co. write as follows:—
Our last circular was dated the 9th inst. During the early part of the fortnight business was confined between dealers only, several selling portions of their previous settlements at last mail's quotations which represented a loss of \$1 to \$2 per bale on their previous purchases. Upon the unexpected turn taken by silver exchange at the commencement of the current week, a firmer tendency has prevailed, and prompted by speculative instinct Chinese dealers have again been eager buyers, in anticipation of a further rise in prices. Sales have been contracted for both for "spot" and "to arrive." Prices have been on the basis of last mail's quotations, while in the cases of a few selected spinings \$1 to \$2 better has been obtained.
No. 20s.—A moderate business is reported at last mail's prices, and a few favourite threads fetched \$1 better.
No. 16s.—Ruled quiet. Selected threads changed hands at quotations.
No. 12s.—Not much in favour; business done was for immediate requirements only.
No. 10s.—Cheap prices induced buyers, as usual the bulk of business was done in this count.
No. 8s.—Remains neglected.
No. 6s.—Only two threads changed hands.
The market closes steady.
Sales:—100 bales of No. 6s., 3,770 bales of No. 10s., 1,410 bales of No. 12s., 150 bales of No. 16s., and 1,570 bales of No. 20s.; in all about 7,000 bales.
Arrivals:—Per steamers *Japan* and *Catherine* (from Calcutta), and *Islok*, *Bombay* (from Bombay), and *Mulla* (from Bombay) of about 5,000 bales.
Unsold Stock:—About 48,000 bales.
Uncleared Stock:—About 220,000 bales.
Exchange:—We quote to-day as under:—
India T. T. at Rs. 164 1/2 per cent.
Demand " " 164 1/2
London T. T. " Sh. 2 1/2 1/2
Demand " " 2 1/2 1/2
Shanghai " " 71 1/2
Silver " " 31 3/16d. per oz.

Writing under same date, Messrs. Cawajee, Pailan & Co. report:—
Our last report was dated the 9th inst, per S.S. *Dahli* since when a fairly large business has been effected in our yarn market especially in approved spinings of favourite chops, No. 10s, as usual, attracting the largest amount of attention. Those spinings which are particularly wanted by the trade and are scarce have fetched a dollar more over previous quotations. The fluctuation in exchange has also greatly affected business as in a falling tendency dealers rush into the market, while buying entirely ceases in a rising exchange. Although supplies continue on a limited scale and stocks are steadily decreasing there has been no corresponding rise in values consequent on the paucity of orders from the consuming centres. Meanwhile the market closes steady.

No. 6s.—In small request at quotations.
No. 8s.—Continue neglected.

No. 10s.—A large business has been effected in this count especially in favourite spinings at an advance of \$1/4 in price.
No. 12s.—In fair demand at previous rates.
No. 16s.—Small sales at last mail rates.
No. 20s.—In moderate request at steady prices.

Sales during the past fortnight comprise of about 100 bales of No. 6s.; 4,491 bales of No. 10s.; 1,605 bales of No. 12s.; 230 bales of No. 16s. and 1,870 bales of No. 20s.; in all about 8,276 bales. Arrivals per steamers *Bombay* (from Bombay), *Japan*, *Islok*, *C. Ahear* and *Mulla*, amount to about 5,360 bales.
Shipment to Shanghai and Northern Ports of about 1,520 bales. The unsold stock is estimated at about 33,000 bales.

Local Mills:—No business is reported.
Japanese Yarn:—Sales of 350 bales No. 20s. at \$12 1/2 per bale are reported.

Exchange:—We quote on India to-day at Rs. 164 1/2. London at 2 1/2 1/2.

TO-NAVY EXCHANGE.

Selling.
London—Bank T.T. 2 1/2 1/2
Do. demand 2 1/2 1/2
Do. 4 months sight 2 1/2 1/2
France—Bank T.T. 2 1/2 1/2
America—Bank T.T. 2 1/2 1/2
Germany—Bank T.T. 2 1/2 1/2
India T.T. 2 1/2 1/2
Do. demand 2 1/2 1/2
Shanghai—Bank T.T. 2 1/2 1/2
Singapore—Bank T.T. 2 1/2 1/2
Japan—Bank T.T. 2 1/2 1/2
Java—Bank T.T. 2 1/2 1/2

Buying.
1 months sight L/C 2 1/2 1/2
3 months sight L/C 2 1/2 1/2
6 months sight L/C 2 1/2 1/2
10 days sight San Francisco & New York 5 1/2
1 months sight do. 5 1/2
30 days sight Sydney and Melbourne 2 1/2 1/2
4 months sight France 2 1/2 1/2
6 months sight do. 2 1/2 1/2
1 months sight Germany 2 1/2 1/2
3 months sight do. 2 1/2 1/2
Bank of England rate 4 1/2
Bank of France 3 1/2
Sovereign \$9.07

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE P. and O. s.s. *Manila* left London on 20th inst. for the Pacific coast for Singapore to the value of £43,750.

THE appointment of Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, second Police Magistrate, with effect from the 15th instant, is gazetted.

SUN-LIEUTENANT J. de B. Jessop has been appointed to the *Tamar*, Hongkong, for duty with the destroyer *Oliver*.

MR. L. E. Wright, the retiring Ambassador of the United States, left Yokohama on 13th inst. on his return to America.

HONGKONG and China Gas Company, Limited, discharge registered July 17, of debentures dated June 24, 1907, for £600.

ON promotion, Lieut.-Colonel Kent, Royal Engineers, retains his appointment of Commanding Royal Engineer at Singapore.

SERGEANT Major (Foreman of Works) F. C. Hodgson, R.E., arrived here from England per s.s. *Namur* on 15th instant, for duty.

FOUR Japanese Vice-Ministers to Korea have been appointed. The appointment of subordinate officials to their departments will follow.

LIEUTENANT G. A. LUSCOMBE, on promotion, has been reappointed to the gunboat *Dramble*, Lieutenant Commander E. G. W. Davidson on the China Station.

CAPTAIN S. O. Boyd, R.G.A., left per s.s. *Montague* on 14th instant, for posting to Home Establishment, on completion of tour of service with H.K.S.B.R.G.A.

MR. George Grant has been appointed to be acting surveyor of boiler of unlicensed steamships under 60 tons, during the absence on leave of Mr. W. C. Jack.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Surgeon-Lieutenant Forsyth to be Surgeon-Captain in the Volunteer Corps, with effect from the 9th instant.

CHOLERA is increasing in the Japanese Concession at Tientsin and the city. The I. C. S. *Koonching* has been quarantined, two of its engineers being down with the epidemic.

THE Korean Emperor has sanctioned the judgement of the Supreme Court which sentences the head of the Hague deputation to death and the two other members to penal servitude for life.

THE Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd., announce that the total output of the Company's three mines for the week ending August 3rd, 1907 amounted to 25,616.30 tons and the S.W. during the same period to 20,812.50 tons.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged, and will take place in October, between Isabelle, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sassoon, of 46, Grosvenor-place, and Mr. Arthur Humphreys-Owen, of Glasnevin, county Montgomery, only son of the late Mr. A. C. Humphreys-Owen, M. P. for Montgomeryshire.

THE *Board of Trade Journal* states that inquiry has been received from a firm of merchants and commission agents at Hongkong for names of Canadian exporters of skins. From the same quarter inquiry is made for names of firms in Canada likely to import silk piece goods, cassia lignea, firebricks, and other China produce. Good references are offered.

EARLY in the New Year the commands of the 3rd and 4th Battalions of the *Disband* will fall vacant. Brigadier Colonels W. Scott-Moncrieff and G. B. Lempriere will vacate the commands respectively on Feb. 17 and 24, on completion of four years at their heads. The step should be taken by Mr. C. Dyer and R. de B. Burton, the seconds in command of the 4th and 3rd Battalions. In that case, the latter would succeed Colonel Scott-Moncrieff in command of the 3rd Battalion at Hongkong by exchange most likely.

DISAPPOINTMENT in love is alleged to have been the cause of the suicide of a young and well-to-do farmer at Tai-po last Sunday. When it had become known to his family that the young man had cut his throat with a knife, Sergeant Land of Tai-po Police Station, was notified. Luckily at the time the occurrence took place No. 3 police launch was close at hand. After being temporarily treated the injured man was put on board the launch and a start was made for Hongkong. The farmer, however, expired on the trip. His remains were removed to the morgue. We are informed that the deceased took his life because his desire to marry one of the village's daughters was denied.

MASTER C. da Silva, son of Mr. Claudio da Silva, formerly of Hongkong, a local Queen's scholar, was to leave for England on 16th inst. to study law, says the *Singapore Free Press*.

MR. Louis G. Knight, the Governor of Neuva Vizcaya, Philippine Islands, and Mr. W. M. Wooden, of the Educational Bureau, have arrived in Hongkong, en route to America on furlough.

It is whispered that some startling discoveries have been made concerning the slaughtering of pigs in Bangkok. About 50 per cent of the animals brought from up-country appear to be unaccounted for.

THE Formosan lottery will be re-opened next month. It will be remembered that the first prize in the last lottery was won by a Japanese, but confiscated by order of the Court, finding its way into the Treasury.

THE O.S.K. service between Osaka and Calcutta, via Kobe, Hongkong and Singapore, will be opened on the 25th instant by the steamer *Erizo-maru*. This is the first through steamship service opened between Japan and Calcutta.

THE Korean Emperor has issued a decree for the cutting off of topknots. His Majesty states that he has taken this step himself and exhorts the people to follow his example. The Emperor also issues decrees prohibiting premature marriage.

WITH regard to the case reported in the *Hongkong Telegraph* on Monday last in which, as the result of the unwarranted invasion by street coolies of the Samchun steam launch *Po Chuen*, a coolie was killed by falling down the engine-room, the Indian watchman on board the vessel appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, last Wednesday, on a charge of manslaughter. The case was remanded for a week.

THE "Red" cross is hereafter not to be made a trade mark at the pleasure of merchants and druggists. This has been now introduced into the new laws that are being drawn up by the Ministry of Justice, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Agriculture, Works and Commerce, on the ground that this being the sign of the International Red Cross Society it should be the special mark of the members of that Body.

THE local agency of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino, of Lisbon, Portugal, are issuing notes of the Portuguese Bank in Hongkong of higher denomination. The new notes which have been put into circulation are of the same size and design as the \$5 and \$10 bills, but the colour of the ink used in printing is a brilliant cream-brown, yellow, green and red on white bond paper. The note bears the distinctive embossed seal of the corporation on a white ground.

IN honour of the birthday of His Majesty Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, Mr. de Szentmyr de Devoy, Consul for Austria-Hungary in Hongkong, held a reception at the Consulate last Sunday. There were many callers, including representatives from His Excellency the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, His Excellency the General Officer Commanding and the consular corps in the Colony. The health of the Emperor was cordially pledged by all.

MESSRS. Rozario & Co. announce in our business section their resignation as agents in Hongkong of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino. The establishment of the agency in Hongkong was largely due to the efforts of the managing director, Messrs. Rozario & Co., Mr. J. J. Pereira. The severance of his connection with the Portuguese Bank will be regretted by the constituents of the Corporation. Messrs. Arratton V. Apar & Co. have been appointed successors to Messrs. Rozario & Co.

ANOTHER ghastly "find" was made at the Peak on Saturday afternoon last, when an Indian police officer, who was on patrol duty, saw the body of a man hanging from the branch of a tree on the hillside. The body was found by a tree on the hillside. The body was found by a tree on the hillside. The body was found by a tree on the hillside.

THE damage done by the fire in the Naval Yard last Monday morning is put down, approximately, at £4,000. This amount includes \$500 for the loss of clothing, etc., the property of labourers, who were in a nearby shed and which was destroyed. Up to the present the origin of the blaze is unknown. We are informed, however, that the fire started in one of the coolies' sheds. As there was no cooking being done in this shed at the time the fire took place, the men being at work, it is surmised that a spark from a passing steam launch was responsible for the outbreak.

AN extraordinary accident occurred at a match shed which had been erected for ring-song purposes at Shek-long-tsu shortly after midnight. A Chinaman, who was described by the police as a coolie thought it was better to climb up on a wall, adjacent to the match shed, and view the show for nothing, rather than pay the two cents demanded for admission. He sat on the wall for some time, enjoying the performance. He became so enthusiastic that he overbalanced himself. In falling his head became caught between two upright bamboo poles and with the impetus of his fall his neck was broken.

THE death is announced of Mr. B. Holding, chairman of the Netherlands Trading Company, at the age of 68. For nearly half a century he was at the head of two important financial institutions. He commenced his career in the office of Messrs. van Eeghen and Co., went later to Padang (Sumatra), but shortly afterwards returned to Holland, to accept an appointment, in his 26th year, as a director of the Kasverre-niging at Amsterdam. For 15 years he served in this capacity, and the fruits of his organising capacities were shown in the progress of this institution. Mr. Holding has since been for 20 years a director and for seven years chairman of the Netherlands Trading Society. The death of Mr. Holding will be regretted in the commercial world.

A TERRIBLE fatality occurred at Shek-shai-shan on August 1st, resulting in the deaths of fourteen Chinese children. The children were in the habit of carrying food to their parents, and generally took the route running between the railway station and the beach. This morning fourteen of them set out on their journey. As they passed the station a wild beast, said to be a wolf, sprang on them and killed the entire party. The throats of the children were terrible torn. Later other Chinese reported at the yacht that their children were missing. Parties have been organised to trace and kill the beast. It will be remembered that a few months ago wolves made their appearance at Taung near Chin-wang-tao, where much damage was done to the cattle. The villagers at that time were keeping large fires burning during the night in order to scare away the beasts. —P. & T. Times.

CAPTAIN Hardy of H.M.S. *Fantome* reports the existence of a sand bank with 4 fathoms three in position 11° 36' S. Latitude, 123° 58' E. Longitude. This affects Admiralty Chart No. 942A.

On Thursday night, 21st inst., five buildings of the Imperial Iron Foundry at Wakamatsu, near Moji, were destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at between ¥60,000 and ¥70,000.

A HARBIN message to the *Asahi* states that owing to the scarcity of the supply of wheat, and the high market in consequence of a long continued drought, all the flour-mills in Harbin have suspended operations indefinitely.

THE Waiwupu has asked the members of the Diplomatic Body in Peking to warn their respective nationals not to travel into Tibet at present, as the Central Government will not be responsible for their safety, in the circumstances.

A TOKYO despatch of 17th inst. states that the s.s. *Wak* bound for Shanghai, which caught fire off Matsuyaki, Izu Province, is reported a total loss. A portion of the *Wak* was still burning, but was unapproachable. The vessel is resting on its stern with the bow out of water. Her main mast remains, but her fore mast has been blown off.

A VERY quiet wedding was celebrated in Yokohama on the 10th instant, says the *Japan Gazette*, the contracting parties being Mr. H. G. Percy Smith of Hongkong, and Miss Charlotte Adams, a daughter of the late Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, on Tuesday morning, at the Police Court, last Wednesday. The bride and groom had the bride price of \$50 and the dowry \$55.

AN Indian policeman made a very gruesome discovery last Friday morning while passing along Pokokoom Road. Suddenly looking up at a tree, after leaving No. 2 bridge, he caught sight of a body of a man hanging from a branch, ostensibly stone dead. Seeing this he immediately proceeded to No. 7 Police Station and secured an ambulance and had the body removed to the mortuary. Upon examination of the corpse it was discovered that the deceased, a coolie, about forty years of age, had been dead at least five days. The spot where he was found hanging is a very secluded one, surrounded by thick trees and also a good deal of high undergrowth, which would account for the body hanging in such a position for that length of time without discovery. Poverty is supposed to be the cause of the coolie's demise.

WHILE the rest of the city was still wrapped in slumber last Saturday morning, a young Chinese woman, whose name the police got as Leung Ki, residing at 20, Wing Fung Street, made an unsuccessful attempt to end her life by drowning in the harbour. An Indian constable on duty on the Praya Central had his attention drawn to what appeared to be a human figure struggling in the water. Going close to the sea wall he saw a woman rising to the surface the second time and, without loss of time, he made every effort to rescue her. His efforts were successful, though the young woman was unconscious when brought to the shore. She was removed to the Government Civil Hospital, where she was detained for treatment. On Monday morning, however, she will be called upon to give an explanation in the Police Court of her conduct in endeavouring to take her own life.

A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD lad named So Fat, living at 40, Kowloon-chai, had the surprise of his life last night (16th inst.), when he thought to enrich himself by stealing from his neighbours' expense. But he little knew his neighbours' athletic capabilities. Next door to So's house lives a married woman named Chan Ng. Discovering So about to leave her premises at about eight o'clock last night with her box of jewellery under his arm, the athlete promptly seizing a rope lassoed the would-be burglar, whom she tied securely to the bedpost. Then she called for the police. Police Sergeant Sim, of Sham-shui-po Police Station, took charge of the miscreant. So Fat made his debut before Mr. W. D. Melbourne this morning at the Police Court, on a charge of larceny. Mr. Otto Kong Singh appeared for the defence. A remand was allowed. Accused was released on bail of £100.

THERE will be one sampanman conspicuous by his absence from theatres for some time to come. And he will, in future, no doubt, seek his bed at a proper hour. Having made good profit yesterday (16th inst.) the sampanman, whose name was unascertained, would not treat himself to a visit to the Tai Ping theatre. This he did. Leaving the theatre at two o'clock this morning, the boatman finding it not worth while returning to his boat, which was moored some distance down the harbour, he curled himself up to sleep on a narrow parapet running alongside the Shek-long-tsu nullah. In his sleep he apparently had a nightmare, for the next seen of the boatman was his unconscious form lying in the bottom of the nullah. Ladders were taken by the police and the unfortunate boatman brought to the shore and removed to the Government Civil Hospital, where he is being treated for severe bruises about the head; which are, however, not believed to be serious.

THE *London & China Express* says:—The report of the Commission on Sanitary Matters in Hongkong and the officials reply have naturally called forth a good deal of attention. As was perhaps only to be expected, the latter is most hostile to the report, as the Colonial Secretary is responsible for the Ordinance, No. 23 of 1903, which was passed while he was acting Governor, and the other three officials, viz. the P.C.M.O., P.W.D. and M.O.H. are the men who were responsible for the administration of the Ordinances, an administration which was found by the Commission so very defective. It was hardly likely, therefore, that those officials should admit good in the report. Mr. May, in his address to the Legislative Council, only referred to bribery and corruption. But this is really only a secondary consideration. Bribery has been proved to exist. The officials must see that it is put a stop to. The real reason for the Commission was to point out defects in administration of which to many complaints had been made, and which, of course, includes defects in the Ordinances themselves. Judging from the statements of the officials the Ordinances, and administration are apparently perfect, and require no amending, except perhaps in some few small details. If this were really so there was no need to appoint a Commission, and if the official view be accepted, the work of the Commission will be practically wasted, and the Colony receive no redress. It now remains to be seen which view is accepted by the public, and what in a Crown Colony is more important, the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In the meantime the officials are dragging the red herring of "bribery" across the trail. The true issue is reform of the Ordinances and Sanitary Department. The Commission worked hard for the best part of a year in the interests of the Colony, and would naturally like to see its labours result in action.

THREE fishermen—a father and his two sons—were sent to goal this morning, after being convicted of the larceny of thirteen pieces of pig iron, valued at \$17.50, the property of Messrs. W. S. Bailey and Company, at To-kwa-wan, yesterday. The iron was deposited on Messrs. Bailey and Co.'s wharf. Yesterday afternoon the coxswain of the launch *Bailey* saw the three accused put off from the wharf and rowed toward Small Island—about fifty yards away. Then he saw the trio taking the iron ashore. He summoned the chief clerk, who sent some workmen after the thieves in a dinghy